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Commuters facing huge increase in price of rail fares – again

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COMMUTERS face staggering price hikes of around £200 on annual season tickets following the Government's announcement of yet another inflation-busting rise.

And things could get even worse for the borough's hard-hit commuters if rail operator Southeastern chooses to push the 6.2 per cent increase up by even more.

Next January's fares will be based on July's inflation of 3.2 per cent plus three per cent, but operators are allowed to raise the ticket cost on popular routes by an additional five per cent as long as they impose lower increases elsewhere, and the overall average increase across the county remains at 6.2 per cent.

In the worst-case scenario it could mean some annual tickets on routes between west Kent towns and London being hit with a massive 11.2 per cent hike, amounting to a staggering £426 rise on standard rail and £525 on high speed from some districts.

Southeastern has not yet confirmed what the increases will be.

But under the latest pricing formula of 6.2 per cent, commuters using Maidstone station to reach the city from January, 2013, are likely to see season ticket costs on the standard service rise by £235 to £4,039 and for high speed by £290 to £4,982.

If Southeastern chooses to raise prices by the maximum 11.2 per cent, it will be an extra £426 and £525 respectively on top of current fares.

For those using Sevenoaks station, costs will rise by £184 to £3,164 on a regular season ticket to London

Continued on page 2

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

OLYMPICS

DALEY DROPS BY

POPULAR Olympian Tom Daley made a splash this week when he visited Bluewater.

The bronze-medal winning diving sensation was met by hordes of emotional fans when he appeared at Waterstones to sign copies of his new book, My Story.

CAMPAIGN

Airport plans hit by fog row

A NEW Thames Estuary airport is considerably more likely to be affected by foggy weather than Heathrow, new research has found. The study by the Met Office was commissioned by Medway Council in response to claims that an estuary hub would be "just as foggy" as Heathrow. **PAGE 5**

CRIME

Third convict goes on the run

A CONVICTED robber has become the third prisoner to have gone on the run from the same prison in just eight weeks – raising questions over security procedures. Keith Cockerton went missing last Saturday when he failed to return to Blantyre House open prison in Horden near Goudhurst. **PAGE 7**

SPORT

Laid-back Sam reaps rewards

KENT'S youngster Sam Billings has pinpointed new-found relaxation skills as the reason for his stay in Jimmy Adams' plans. The 21-year-old has been a mainstay in the one-day sides this summer thanks to his batting, including an astonishing knock of 143 to enter the record books. **PAGE 79**

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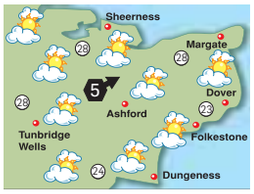

TODAY: Hot and humid with long spells of sun. Light south-west winds. Max temp 27-30C (81-86F). **TONIGHT:** Humid with clear spells. Min temp 16-19C (61-66F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.28	6.7	12.53	6.8
Margate	01.39	4.8	13.56	4.9
St Mary's	06.30	5.6	18.47	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 26C	Min 14C
Tuesday	Max 24C	Min 15C
Wednesday	Max 23C	Min 15C
Thursday	Max 22C	Min 15C
Friday	Max 21C	Min 14C
Saturday	Max 21C	Min 13C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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TRAVEL

Commuting costs 'could soon be the same as income tax'

Continued from front page

stations. If costs rocket by 11.2 per cent it will be an extra £333 on the current fare.

Tonbridge passengers will see a rise of £223 on regular annual tickets, pushing fares up to £3,831 and on high speed by £341 to £5,845. Under an 11.2 per cent increase, they would rise by £404 and £616 respectively.

Dartford commuters are likely to see an increase of £131, pushing regular season ticket prices up to £2,255 and by £247 to £4,243 on high speed. Gravesend is likely to be similar. With an 11.2 per cent increase these prices could rocket to £331 and £447 respectively.

The only hope is the operator will keep increases down on some of west Kent's lines to balance out the county's overall average rise.

Southeastern said the Government decided on the pricing formula, and stressed it was too early for the operator to say whether any tickets prices would be hit by the maximum 11.2 per cent increase.

A spokeswoman said fares would be announced towards the end of the year.

Campaigns officer for Kent Green Party Dr Hazel Dawe, who commutes from Tonbridge to London every day, said rail commuters can expect a huge hit in January of perhaps nine or 10 per cent.

"Overcrowded trains, bad air conditioning, stinking toilets and cramped seating are all features of rail travel which we pay more for each year," she said. "Our rail fares are about 40 per cent above the European average and are the highest in the world.

"Kent Green Party urges everyone to write to their MPs and demand cuts in rail fares."

Protest group Campaign for Better Transport has argued that a number of commuters are likely to see their annual season ticket rise by more than £1,000 from 2011-2015.

Chief executive Stephen Joseph said: "If rail fares are allowed to gallop ahead like this, many commuters will soon be paying as much to travel to work as they do in income tax."

County Hall chiefs have also expressed serious concern at the proposed increases.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for transport Cllr Bryan Sweetland said: "We recognise that the Government has decided to raise rail fares by the level of inflation plus three per cent and that this is not a decision taken by the rail operator, Southeastern.

"However, we are concerned at the serious impact this will have on families in Kent, at a time when household budgets are very tight.

"Any further increase, on top of the proposed 6.2 per cent would be totally unacceptable.

"KCC urges Southeastern not to impose any higher increases on top of the basic nationwide increase of inflation plus three per cent.

"We eventually want to see no increase in rail fares above the level of inflation."

The Government has argued that the hike is due to its policy to increase the amount paid by passengers to decrease the subsidy paid by the taxpayer.

Chief executive of the Association of Train Operating Companies Michael Roberts said the Government sets the average of commuter ticket prices. He added: "Any flexibility train companies have within the rules is to maximise revenue for the Government."

POLICE

Warning that cop shop closures say 'police are abandoning your area'

By Dean Kilpatrick
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A NUMBER of police 'shops' are set to close in September amid fears the cutbacks will damage the relationship between the force and the public.

Shops in Broadstairs, Sandwich, Strood, West Malling, Hythe, Whitstable, and Tenterden, will be closed because of low footfall as part of the cutbacks that see Kent Police battling to reduce its budget by £50 million in four years.

Public enquiry officers at the shops will be redeployed, but will also be able to apply for voluntary redundancy.

All the offices earmarked for closure are visited less than 100 times a week, and the move is believed to save the force hundreds of thousands of pounds.

However, the chair of Kent Police Federation is worried the closures will have a damaging effect on the link between the community and police.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

CLOSURES: Police say they are cutting buildings rather than police officers

Ian Pointon said: "This is the face of the cuts that are being made. The talk that you can do more for less is being proved as absolute nonsense.

"The reality of most of these cuts is that these shops don't get used very much, but when they close it, it sends out the message the police are abandoning the area."

Mr Pointon said people would be "up in arms" about the closures, and compared the demise of the shops to the shutting of other public amenities.

He added: "I don't think this will be the end of the closures. What [the public] have to understand is there are choices, and the decision to be made is do we keep buildings, or officers?"

The shops are expected to close by the end of September, but Kent Police says the decision will not reduce the visible presence of officers in the county.

A spokesman said: "Our approach to neighbourhood policing is about putting officers out in the community, not inside a police station.

"Front counters identified for closure were done so after considering how many people visit the counters, whether they were operationally fit for purpose, and the cost involved in running them.

"Hythe and Sandwich police shops, for example, only have an average of eight visitors each per week."

The force added that the way the public communicates with the force has changed in recent years, insisting the majority of enquiries made at shops can be done over the telephone.

The spokesman added: "Fewer people visit police stations, instead preferring to contact the police by phone. However, any member of the public who would like to see an officer in person can make an appointment for officers to visit them at a time of their convenience.

"The majority of visits to these shops are general enquiries that could be dealt with by call handlers in our control room or officers in the community."

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EDUCATION

Smiles all round as students celebrate top A-level results

By Dean Kilpatrick
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WELL DONE: Pupils at Sutton Valence School are thrilled with their results

SMILING faces and tear-filled eyes were to be seen all over the county when students received their A-level results on Thursday.

Despite the way exams are marked making it harder to achieve top marks, Kent's pass rate has remained the same as last year, with some schools registering an improvement in their records.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Mike Whiting said: "Whereas other parts of the country are seeing a drop, in Kent we are managing to hold onto our record.

"Young people are getting the results they need for the future. Increasingly, they are coming away with the right results for them."

Despite tuition fees rising to £9,000 a year, leading to a drop in students applying for university places, many teenagers still had their hearts in their mouths as they opened the decisive envelope.

Cllr Whiting added: "Some are going to university, some are going straight into paid jobs and others are going into apprenticeship schemes. We will see fewer going to university, but we have a diverse education system and there is something for everyone.

"We've seen improvements against the national trend, so well done Kent.

"I offer my hearty congratulations to all those who have achieved so much and to wish every student the best for their own future, whatever that might turn out be.

"Kent's academies and maintained schools have shown how they make such an important contribution to the success of so many young people."

Schools across the county were celebrating bucking the national trend.

Headmaster of Sutton Valence School, near Maidstone, Bruce Grindlay said: "This is a fantastic set of results for a deserving cohort of youngsters who epitomise the school's commitment to work ethic and focus on breadth of achievement and personal development.

"To move from 61 per cent A* to B grades last year to 63 per cent this year when grade inflation is being curtailed, is a ringing endorsement of our teaching and learning.

"I'm delighted for students and staff and very proud of their achievements."

Simon Langton Girls' School in Canterbury was also celebrating a first – sending its first intake of boys to university.

Tom Collie notched straight A*s alongside his female companions and will go to Durham to study ancient history.

Headteacher Jane Robinson said: "The number of students achieving straight A*/A grades has nearly doubled this year, which is particularly worthy of note as A-levels have been marked more rigorously this year in a bid to halt the increasing numbers of students getting higher grades. We are all extremely proud of our students' achievements."

Nationally, pass levels stalled, but schools minister Nick Gibb said the change of the marking system made the grades even more prestigious.

Mr Gibb said: "I am delighted that so many young people have secured good A-level results. It's always a pleasure to be able to celebrate academic excellence, to highlight the successes of public servants and to underline how impressive so many of today's young people really are."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bowler to spin for town

INDIAN Test cricket's star spinner Harbhajan Singh is to become an ambassador for Gravesham and his home city of Jalandhar, after the two areas were twinned earlier this year. The bowler, who plays for Essex, agreed to take on the honorary role of promoting Gravesham following a visit to Gravesend and its new Sikh gurdwara. He said: "I was particularly struck by how welcoming everyone was. It is truly an honour to tell everyone about your town."

Cat put in microwave

THE RSPCA has launched an investigation after reports an eight-year-old boy put his neighbour's cat into a microwave. The owner claimed he was upstairs in his home in Rochester when he heard the microwave being used. After coming downstairs, the owner found his neighbour's son had put the cat in the microwave and was standing watching it. The owners of the cat took it to the PDSA charity for treatment, but the animal may have permanent organ damage.

Water workers abused

WATER workers laying a new main at the junction of Chestfield Road and the Old Thanet Way, Whitstable, have been subjected to abuse from passers-by. South East Water closed the road on August 6, to lay a new water main. The company's Graham Webb, added: "Drivers have been trying to force their way through the barriers. This not only puts the lives of our contractors at risk, but also motorists and pedestrians. The gang on site has been subjected to a stream of verbal abuse. This kind of behaviour is disgraceful and wholly unacceptable."

ENTERTAINMENT

Stars to be Big Brother housemates

KENT stars Cheryl Fergison and Julian Clary will spend the next three weeks cooped up with 11 other well known faces in the latest Celebrity Big Brother series on Channel 5.

Cheryl was known to millions as loveable Heather Trott in EastEnders, and Clary is popular as one of TV's campest presenters.

Fergison will play the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella at Central Theatre, Chatham, this Christmas.

Right after her dramatic exit from Albert Square, she was snapped up to play the popular character in her first-ever panto role.

She trained on a community theatre arts course at Rose Bruford College in Sidcup.

Clary, who lives near Ashford, also stars in the show. He recently told this paper about his book detailing the spooky goings on at his home.

The pair are joined by the likes of Coronation Street's Julie Goodyear, Spandau Ballet star Martin Kemp, and Loose Women presenter Coleen Nolan.

Duane 'Dog' Chapman from US series Dog The Bounty Hunter, was also due to be locked up, but was denied a UK visa because of a murder conviction in the 70s.

HOUSEBOUND: Julian Clary and Cheryl Fergison

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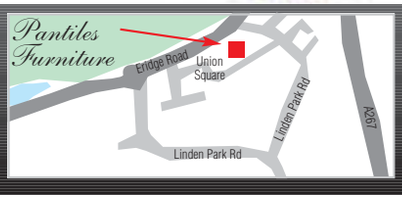

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CAMPAIGN

Foggy conditions could ground proposals for estuary airport

By Marijke Cox
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A THAMES Estuary airport is considerably more likely to be affected by fog than Heathrow, new research has found.

The study by the Met Office, commissioned by Medway Council in response to claims that an estuary hub would be "just as foggy" as Heathrow, looked at how many hours of fog there would be at a new airport and how many passengers would be affected.

Data taken from a weather station at the estuary over five years showed it would be more susceptible to foggy conditions, when visibility falls below 1,000m.

Such conditions would mean traffic controllers having to increase airspace between planes so there is more time to react to any problems, which would subsequently slow arrivals and departures and clog up the process.

The authors of the report said: "Given that any airport in the Thames Estuary would be operating 24 hours a day with considerably more passenger numbers than Heathrow, it is reasonable to conclude that a significantly larger number of people are likely to be affected by fog in the Thames Estuary.

"This is enhanced when you consider the data which shows that a large amount of fog occurs during the night, something that Heathrow is able to mitigate given that it does not operate 24 hours a day, but a Thames estuary airport will not have the same luxury."

The report followed claims by Huw Thomas from Foster and Partners – Lord Foster's firm – that an estuary airport would be "just as foggy" as Heathrow. Lord Foster is the architect behind plans for a £20bn airport on the Isle of Grain.

The Met Office said fog had more of an impact on arrivals, when planes are trying to land, than with departures and that a Thames Estuary hub would be almost three times more likely to suffer from dense fog during peak arrival times, when visibility falls below 150m, than Heathrow.

The study also found that, based on the estimated number of flights and passengers, some 115,132 people would be affected by fog at an estuary airport every year.

This latest research has given the campaign against such an airport an extra boost as the fight pushes on ahead of the Government's eagerly awaited aviation review this autumn.

Medway Council said it commissioned the study to add weight to the anti-airport campaign.

The research provided a breakdown on an hourly basis, over five years from January, 2007, to December, 2011, of the visibility at separate weather stations situated at Heathrow airport and at the Thames Estuary.

A Medway Council spokesman said: "Research found the Thames Estuary region is actually three times more susceptible to foggy conditions than Heathrow airport. An airport on the estuary would not only cost tens of billions to build, it would also be on the wrong side of London and have a devastating impact on communities."

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Write to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Outdoor fires warning

KENT Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to protect the countryside after dealing with a spate of outdoor fires. Last weekend crews were called to fires in Gravesend, West Hythe, Kemsing, Sheppey, Sheerness, Strood, and Romney Marsh. Spokesman Stuart Skilton, said: "Every year fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside, crops, and wildlife habitats. While some fires are started deliberately most are actually down to carelessness."

Train firm claims gold

TRAIN company Southeastern has announced more than seven million passengers made journeys on its trains during the Olympic Games. Despite concerns the transport infrastructure wouldn't cope with the increase in demand, there was no major disruption in Kent during the Games. The figure is a 20 per cent increase in people using the trains compared to this time last year. Southeastern says it is now preparing so it is ready for the Paralympics.

Manhunt after attack

ESSEX Police are hunting for this man following an assault inside a Chelmsford nightclub last Saturday which has left a 49-year-old man seriously ill in hospital in a critical condition. Detectives believe the man, who was captured on CCTV, has connections to Kent.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Business awards will celebrate the county's best independent traders

THE doom and gloom of the last few years has seen some businesses flounder under the strain of the economic crisis.

But there are many independent traders who have beaten the odds and gone from strength to strength in the face of adversity.

In celebration of this, Kent Independent Traders Business Community has organised a special awards ceremony to recognise the hard work and dedication that comes with owning a business.

Supported by Archant KOS Media, the event looks to celebrate those businesses in the county which have bucked the national trend and continued to thrive.

Business owners are invited to enter a maximum of three categories in the competition from a selection of 14, including independent tradesperson of the year, entrepreneur of the year, service industry award, and retailer of the year.

Each category winner will receive an advertising/marketing package worth £1,200 and the runners-up package is worth £500.

Organisers say it will not only give winners a fantastic boost financially but will raise their profile and give them an edge over the competition.

Hilary Steel, from Kent Ideas, the firm hosting the awards, said: "With so much doom and gloom surrounding the current economic climate there is no better time for independent business owners in Kent to shout out that they are still going strong. Independent businesses are the backbone of communities."

The ceremony will take place on September 20, at Bar 10 in Maidstone and will be combined with the largest business networking event on the Kent Independent Traders calendar.

The event is being sponsored by Specsavers, Q Hotel, Ashford International, and Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets are £5, which includes welcome drinks and a buffet.

Kent Independent Traders is an online and offline business community for anyone who owns their own business.

All are welcome to attend and tickets are available at www.kentindependenttraders.co.uk/2012-awards.

For the full list of categories and to enter go to www.kentindependenttraders.co.uk before August 31. An independent panel of judges will decide the winners.

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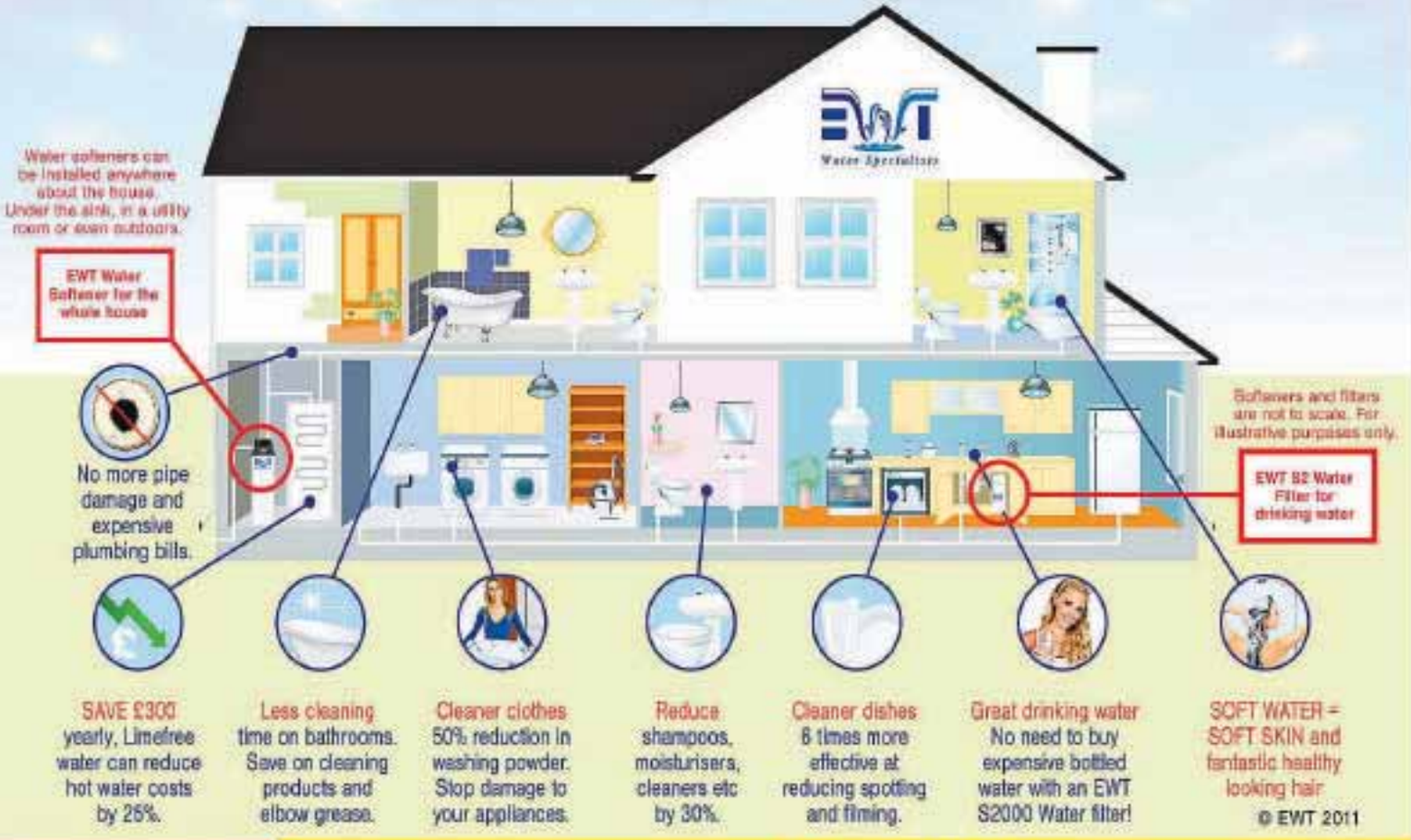

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CRIME

How could three prisoners go on the run in less than two months?

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CONVICTED robber has become the third prisoner to have gone on the run while on community release from the same jail in just eight weeks – raising questions over security procedures.

Keith Cockerton went missing last Saturday when he failed to return to Blantyre House open prison in Horden, near Goudhurst.

It came just weeks after convicted murderer Jamie Frater, 39, who stabbed a teacher to death in 1993, went on the run while working in the community on July 2.

And two weeks previously, on June 18, Blantyre House prisoner Raymond Atkins, 39, who is serving a sentence for robbery and manslaughter, also failed to return to the prison while on community release.

On each occasion Kent Police warned the public not to approach the prisoners.

Frater handed himself in to police in Dorset just days after fleeing, and Atkins was found in Hastings five days after he fled.

HM Prisons Service would not comment on how the three were able to abscond or what action was being taken.

A spokeswoman said it was now a police matter. She stressed that prisoners underwent rigorous risk assessments before they were granted temporary release into the community.

MISSING: Convicted robber Keith Cockerton

"Only prisoners representing minimal risk of escape and harm to the public are eligible for release on temporary licence," she said.

"They must pass a rigorous risk assessment and adhere to a strict set of rules at all times.

"Those who breach these conditions in any way will be subject to disciplinary proceedings and are likely to be moved to closed conditions."

Blantyre House is a category C/D resettlement prison designed to prepare men for their eventual release.

It offers offenders the opportunity to do basic skills qualifications and courses such as healthy lifestyle, and social and life skills, as well as a number of vocational courses.

Once risk assessed, prisoners are allowed to develop their education by attending external colleges. They are also allowed to work in roles such as cleaners and kitchen workers.

Prisoners – who are risk assessed and able to go out – initially take part in escorted project parties within the community, and then move on to carry out individual community work unaccompanied.

The prisons spokeswoman said that these prisoners were categorised as being of low risk to the public.

She also stressed that release on temporary licence helped to reduce re-offending by setting up appropriate employment and rehabilitation work, as well as maintaining family contact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Injuries in mass brawl

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a brawl involving 15-20 people in Ramsgate in the early hours of Saturday, August 11. At least three men were injured and needed hospital treatment – a man, 20, from Deal who had a suspected fractured eye socket and cheekbone; a Deal man, 24, who had a suspected broken nose and eye socket; and a 20-year-old man from Birchington who had a suspected broken nose.

Hunt for role models

TO celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Ashford Borough Council is launching a prestigious new awards ceremony, honouring those role models worthy of civic recognition. The awards are open to anyone aged 16 or over, who is either a resident or who serves Ashford's communities but lives outside the borough. The dedication of those people nominated must shine through as an example to others and their personal efforts must inspire those around them.

Kiss pulls art lovers

MORE than 400,000 people have visited Rodin's sculpture The Kiss at Turner Contemporary in Margate. The sculpture has been on loan from the Tate Gallery since October last year and will leave Thanet on September 2. Turner Contemporary's director Victoria Pomery said: "The Kiss has proved to be a huge hit with our visitors, many of whom still seem surprised to find such an iconic work of art here in Margate."

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LONDON 2012

Our Paralympians have gold in their sights

HEROES: Clockwise from left, Nathan Milgate is handy with a gun; Steve Brown (in blue) is captain of the wheelchair rugby team; sitting volleyball player Richard Dobell; and teen table tennis star Ross Wilson

By Marijke Cox
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THE Olympics may well be over but sport fever is set to continue with the start of the Paralympics in less than two weeks.

And Kent has every reason to be excited, with 10 inspirational gold medal hopefuls gearing up to take to the stage and try to prove they are worldbeaters.

The county is also getting ready to host the Paralympic road race and time trial cycling event between September 5-8, which starts and finishes at Brands Hatch in Longfield and runs though the Sevenoaks district.

Tickets are almost sold out, but crowds are expected to take to the street route and cheer on the 225 athletes due to take part over the four days.

Locog director of Paralympic integration Chris Holmes said it was a delight to bring the Games to Kent.

"I recommend that everyone takes advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see sport like never before in the Garden of England," he said.

The Paralympics, which run from August 29-September 9, will keep the nation's spirits lifted following the awe-inspiring Olympics.

Sports minister and MP for Faversham and Mid Kent Hugh Robertson said: "The tickets are selling fast and I think everyone will enjoy it as party mark two."

Kent's 10 athletes are getting ready to take the Paralympics by storm and come home with coveted gold medals.

Table tennis stars Will Bayley, 24, from Tunbridge Wells, and Ross Wilson, 17, from Sheppey will be competing, as well as 25-year-old Nathan Milgate, from Canterbury, who will be in the shooting.

Chatham's Richard Hennahane, 31, will be competing in the archery, Dartford-based Ben Quilter, 30, and Joe Ingram, 30, will be battling it out in the judo, while Steve Brown, 31, who lives in Sittingbourne, is captaining the wheelchair rugby team.

Claire Harvey, 38, from Ashford; Richard Dobell, 45, from Beckenham; and Netra Rana, 28, from Folkestone, will be competing in the sitting volleyball.

Mr Brown said: "To compete alongside such a close-knit group of individuals who trust each other completely is humbling."

County Hall chiefs said the Games would help inspire young people to reach their personal achievements.

Kent County Council said it helps youngsters thrive in competitive sport through the Kent School Games (KSG) initiative.

Involving 30,000 young athletes aged four to 16 each year, it introduces the thrill of competitive sport and encourages young people to take part. So successful is the KSG, that the scheme is set to be rolled out nationwide.

Mr Robertson said: "I am committed to seeing a real legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the growth of the School Games will provide just that."

Picture: MICHAELA GREEN

Picture: ONEDITION

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BUSINESS

Priceless benefits of the Olympics legacy

KENT firms have done well from the Olympic Games, say leading business experts.

Much was made before the Games started that Kent firms would be set to make a killing in the build-up and throughout the tournaments.

Mandy Bearne, director of marketing and research at Locate in Kent, an organisation set up to attract new business to the county, said: "Kent companies were extremely good at winning Olympic contracts.

"Some 160 Kent companies won 240 contracts and these were just the first tier ones, which are contractors not sub-contractors.

"Apparently they are worth between £60m-100m and I know that some of them were massive. It is likely sub-contractors in Kent won significant extra business. All these new contracts may have been one-offs but I am sure they were welcome during the recession.

"Inward investment is a long-term game but I would not be at all surprised if an investor, in say three to five years' time, turns out to have been at the Olympics from outside the area, or an overseas visitor travelling via Ebbsfleet.

"Locate in Kent promoted the county to various groups of overseas business people brought to London during the Olympics and we hope these contacts may eventually bear fruit.

"Lastly there's the totally unquantifiable feel-good factor."

And Jo James, the chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "There are some aspects that are beginning to emerge which indicate considerable benefit.

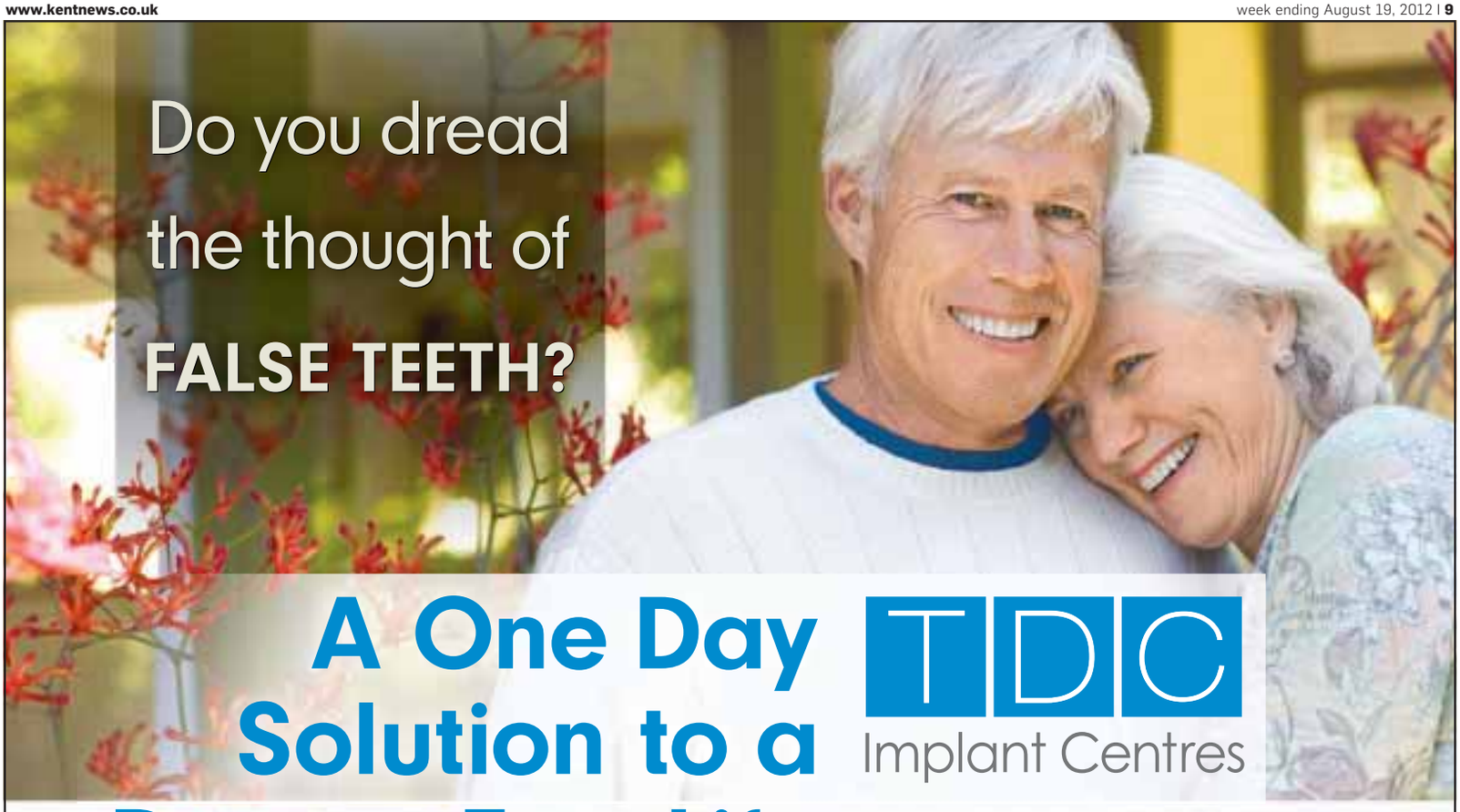
"Initially, the Torch Relay through the county much increased activity in the areas concerned, and town centre traders profited accordingly.

"Kent companies have been involved in the whole process, including building the Olympic Park and associated infrastructure development. Although it is unlikely the total benefits of these operations are yet known, they will surely be profitable for the companies concerned.

"Where tourism is concerned, Visit Kent report that there has been major impact already in north Kent, particularly in the area of hotel occupancy, because of proximity to Ebbsfleet International station.

"Visit Kent stress, however, that the impact on tourism is expected to be experienced as a longer term benefit. So while it may be a while before we know the overall economic impact, there can be no doubt that there has been, and will be, profit both short and long term for sectors of the business community.

"And what value is the feel-good factor? Priceless."



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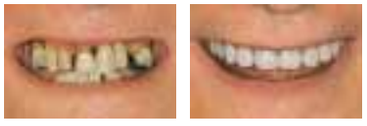

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TOURISM

Crisis? What crisis? Isle's sandy beaches are just as busy and beautiful as ever

By Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

THANET'S beaches are back in business and as brilliant as ever.

In truth, they have been open since the first fortnight of June, after an incident in which raw sewage was pumped into the sea, leading to swimmers being banned from it for eight days. However, on a gloriously sunny Friday last week the assembled media at Botany Bay, Kingsgate, were shown just how well this coastline has recovered.

The message was delivered by Dr Alasdair Bruce and his wife Kim (together they form the Rock Doc team that leads geology and natural-history walks around the isle) on an event organised by Southern Water.

It must be rare that officials and traders in a resort welcome rain at the start of the summer season, especially when it coincides with something as high-profile as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday, but that was the situation in Thanet after the spill, which prompted the council to shut all its beaches to swimmers.

Even though it was an exceptional rainstorm that had overwhelmed Southern Water's Foreness Point pumping station in the first place, causing the filth to be pumped straight into the sea, further rain hot on its heels meant that the offending matter was broken up and dispersed relatively quickly.

"We were fortunate as the spill could have been much worse, but a lot of rainfall immediately afterwards – although not good for business – resulted in the sewage particles being broken up quickly," said Dr Bruce.

And such was the feeling of bonhomie on the day that his rival from across the political divide (Dr Bruce is also a Conservative district councillor) echoed his views:

Cllr Clive Hart, the Labour leader of the council, said: "The most fortunate thing that happened was the appalling weather straight after – without question, it helped us.

"It turns out that the beaches could have been opened after three or four days, but the worst thing we could have done would have been to open them and then close them again.

"There were also delays because of the necessary tests on the water."

And on Friday, with a packed Botany Bay taking all present back to those images of heaving resorts from yesteryear, such concerns seemed a million years away.

"Our beaches are open for business – it's wonderful to see the crowds out in force," said council tourism supremo Iris Johnston.

"Our beaches have a capacity to recover far better than we give them credit for," said Dr Bruce.

"This coastline looks after itself. It has an intrinsic beauty – that's why people come back time and time again."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

ROCK ON: Dr Alasdair Bruce explains all during the walk at Botany Bay, Kingsgate

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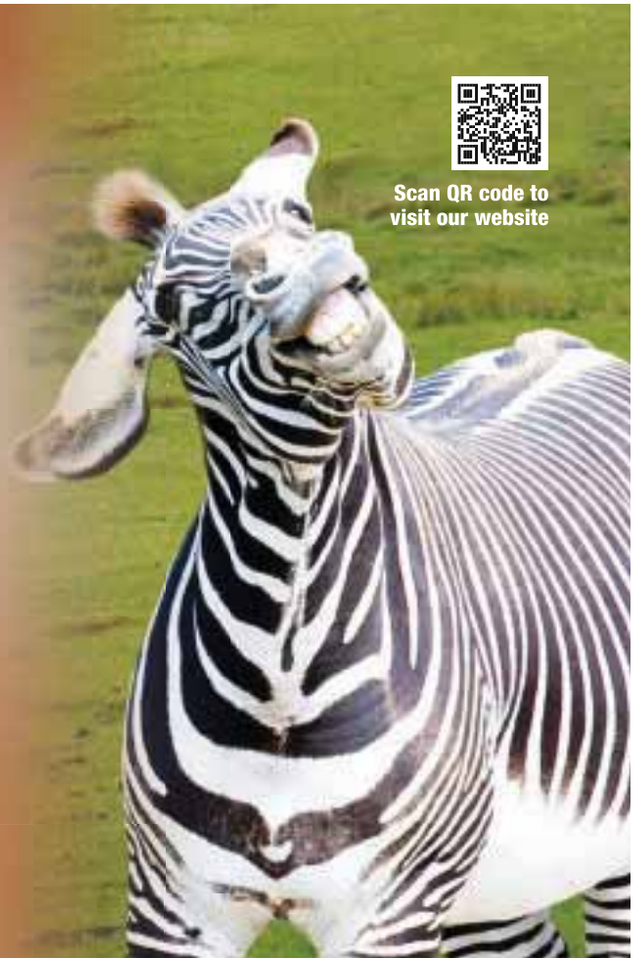

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News

CONSERVATION

Shell Grotto's 'heroes' in line for major award

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WORKING tirelessly in underground conditions at Margate's mysterious Shell Grotto has earned two craftsmen a place on the shortlist for a national competition.

The Grade-I listed attraction had major repairs done last century, but much of the work failed to preserve the interior, which is shrouded in secrecy.

The incredible site includes 4.6 million shells along 70ft of winding passages. To make it a little more spooky, the grotto is underground and leads to a large chamber of mosaics.

Historically, its origins are a little cloudy, but the story of discovery involves a man called James Newlove lowering his son down a hole in 1835.

Colin Barber is the owner after buying it 11 years ago with partner Sarah Vickery.

He said: "Various experts have their theories. Some into paganism suggest a link and the same for those with an interest in Knights Templar and Venetians – they all try to make a connection with their chosen fields. Or it could have been some bloke who liked shells.

Picture: JAKE BANFIELD

NOMINATED: Rob and Adrian

"The truth is no-one really knows. What is clear is many of the shells came from areas to the west of Southampton."

But the grotto needs constant care to ensure it survives under the streets of Margate.

Adrian Powell and Rob Smith were called in to do some vital restoration work, and now they are shortlisted in the Best Craftsmen Employed on a Heritage Rescue section of the prestigious English Heritage Angel Awards.

The duo were put forward by Thanet council for their seven weeks of painstaking work to save and repair areas that had been damaged by long-term water penetration.

The authority said they often endured eight-hour shifts in challenging underground conditions, and the pair displayed total commitment.

They strived to pin back sections of the shell decorations which were becoming detached from the chalk, and sections that had lost their shell decoration have been repaired.

Previous cement repairs have also been replaced, and shells collected from the grotto floor over many years have been re-bedded into the walls.

Sarah Vickery added: "I'm so pleased the extraordinary quality of the work carried out by Rob and Adrian has been recognised.

"They brought such care and integrity to the grotto – they're my conservation heroes."

■ **More news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival is flying high to mark 20th anniversary

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

STUNNING: Breitling Wingwalkers will be among the various attractions at the festival

HERNE Bay festival is set to welcome thousands of visitors over the next week, when the event celebrates its 20th anniversary.

To mark the occasion, the nine-day extravaganza kicks off on Saturday, August 18, with an air show featuring Breitling Wingwalkers, a Spitfire, and Red Bull Matadors.

Running until August 26, the festival is packed with free activities and shows, including a giant picnic, fireworks, and sandcastle competition.

Organisers are expecting up to 10,000 visitors to flock to the festival opening day, with thousands turning up to events during the week.

Saturday's parade is Smugglers and Pirates themed and culminates in a fiery finale when a 20ft high wooden sculpture of a ship filled with pyrotechnics is set alight.

The sculpture has been built by Robert Bradford. He created similar sculptures for the event in 1995 and 1996 and has been invited back to celebrate the anniversary.

Festival director Liz Flynn said: "Everyone has been so excited to see this event return to the festival programme. We are delighted to have Robert back, and cannot wait for what will be a spectacular event."

The bandstand will host a mix of entertainment in the afternoons, from traditional band performances to a gospel choir and children's events.

As part of the pirate theme, cult 80s film The Goonies will be shown on a big screen in Memorial Park on August 24.

Ms Flynn said: "The Goonies is a film for all ages. It is a classic story of adventure, teenage rebellion, friendship and ultimately goodies and baddies, perfect for families or those who remember it the first time around."

The second weekend of entertainment focuses around the live music stage at the Clocktower Plaza and features local bands, including the winners of the Herne Bay Rocks competition, and performances from Canterbury's Matt and Sueleen, finalists on BBC television show The Voice.

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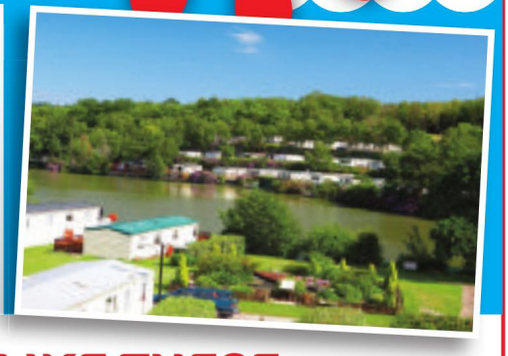

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News

PARANORMAL

Ghostbusters hunt things that go bump on a Saturday night

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

Picture: MICHAEL EVEREST

SUPERNATURAL SLEUTHS: The Ghost Connections team

SPENDING the night in a deserted building in the hope of coming face-to-face with a ghost is not everyone's idea of a fun evening out.

But for a team of Kent investigators it is their favourite way to spend a Saturday night.

Ghost Connections are a team of paranormal enthusiasts who investigate ghosts in some of Kent's oldest and supposedly haunted buildings.

The team began their mission in 2004 and have spent the last eight years tracking paranormal activity with special recording equipment.

Sites they have investigated include Margate Theatre, Bradbourne House in East Malling, and Tonbridge Castle, as well as buildings further afield in Rye and Surrey.

Property owners also often call on their expertise, and so many of the locations visited are kept top secret.

David Godden, 43, from Maidstone, is one of the five-strong team. He said: "As soon as you are out there you have usually got a story to tell. There are a few places over the years that have been interesting."

The team take video and audio recording equipment on their expeditions, as well as measuring temperature.

They then write a full report on their findings and post it at www.ghostconnections.com – these make for fascinating reading, with one detailing an unexplained sighting of a figure with orange eyes, and a groan coming from the woods.

Mr Godden said: "We have seen door handles ratting when there has been no access, footsteps walking around us, voices on the audio recordings.

"I think we would all say we have seen something strange, but we can't say what it is. We do try and explain as much as we can. A lot of the noises are naturally occurring."

But have any of the team ever had an experience to put them off ghost hunting?

Mr Godden said: "None of us have been scared, There have been times when the atmosphere is not pleasant. But we are not scared otherwise we wouldn't be doing it."

After an outing the team meet on Wednesdays to discuss their findings and next trip.

Mr Godden added: "Our intention is to keep going so long as we can continue to find places to go."

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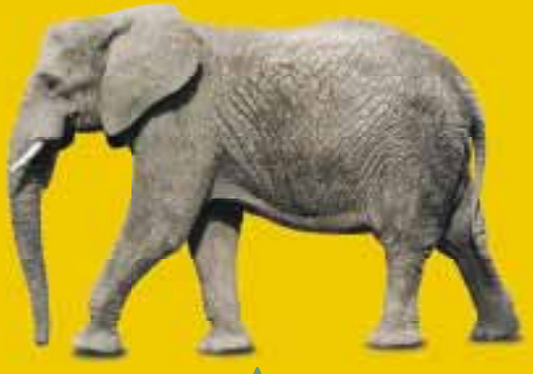

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News

TRIBUTE

103-year-old dies months after crossing the globe to new home

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW Zealand's oldest immigrant has died aged 103 – and she was a woman from Kent who moved when her old people's home was closed down.

Louise Sydes had been comfortable at the Hawkhurst home until it was closed last year. This prompted her to give away most of her possessions and make the 11,000 mile journey to be with her daughter and son-in-law. She was the last resident to leave.

Arriving at Auckland airport in November, she was asked how many cases she'd brought. Mrs Sydes, then 102, said: "Only one. And a small one."

Daughter Sue Reardon hoped her mother would be allowed to set up home permanently in New Zealand, beyond her three-year visa. But her health slumped following a series of strokes around Easter, and she tragically died.

Mrs Reardon said: "She was ready to go. She said she wanted to stay here till she flopped.

GLOBETROTTER: Louise Sydes

She really enjoyed the summer and being in the sunshine."

After the funeral Mrs Sydes' ashes will be returned to Kent to be scattered in a forest where her late husband Jim worked. They'd met on a boat coming back to England from the US at the start of World War Two.

Mrs Sydes had been to New Zealand 10 times before her death. Her family had asked her several times to move there for good, but she loved Kent too much to leave.

But as the years went by, she felt she wanted to be with her daughter, and her extended visa was approved after a personal approach by the family.

Air New Zealand made the journey more bearable when they upgraded her flight ticket for free from economy to business class.

And even when she arrived, she never made too many demands, asking only: "What I want to do is just have a cup of tea. I've not had a decent cup of tea for over a year."

And she added: "I will not miss the weather here, but I will miss my friends, and Midsomer Murders."

The NZ authorities have a reputation for insisting people are self-sufficient, but relaxed the immigration rules when told Louise would continue to get her UK pension.

She celebrated her 103rd birthday on Boxing Day having just experienced her first summer Christmas. Her main ambitions in New Zealand were to have some long walks and eat local lamb, her favourite.

At the time, Kent County Council said of closing Bowles Lodge: "We are proposing to replace these with Extra Care Housing [this includes] 24-hour care and facilities."

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POSITIVE: Gillian Ware learnt to cope with her disease when she bought her first horse, Sadie

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

How horseplay helped author learn to cope with her illness

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TWELVE years ago Gillian Ware was left devastated when she was diagnosed with an incurable form of bowel disease, changing her life forever.

But, after chance led to her buying a horse, Mrs Ware went on a journey of self-discovery and ended up writing her debut book.

Mrs Ware, 57, who lives in Blean, grew up in Canterbury after her parents moved from London when she was 13.

After spending some time in Greece, she returned to Kent in 1991 to settle down as a Home Office civil servant and buy a house.

But her life was turned upside down in 2000 when she found out she had ulcerative colitis, a form of bowel disease which left her unable to work full-time.

The diagnosis had a huge psychological impact on Mrs Ware who had recently decided to fulfil a childhood dream and take up horse-riding lessons at Bursted Manor Riding Centre in Pett Bottom. It was her connection with the horses that helped her cope with the disease.

She said: "I will always have it [the condition] it's just a case of managing it. Going to riding school made me forget about it all. I was amazed at how sensitive horses are. They pick up on your emotions."

In 2005, Mrs Ware decided to buy her first horse, Sadie, which became the inspiration for her biographical story, Horseplay.

Despite the hard work, money and time needed to look after Sadie, their relationship helped Mrs Ware to deal with the physical and mental effects of her condition.

She said: "My illness did not exist in her eyes. She was not embarrassed. People do not know how to deal with it.

"She gave me the motivation to get up out of bed and get fresh air, exercise and feel better. It stops you feeling sorry for yourself. I can stay at home and feel sorry for myself, which is normal, but you have to get on with life. You have got to find out what gives you happiness."

The idea for the book was born when Mrs Ware read her diary on the ups and downs of looking after a horse to her husband, Mike, 62. He found it so funny he suggested it should be made into a book.

Mrs Ware said: "Mike has been very supportive. The book talks about all the funny things that have happened, times like when she's trod on me and dragged me through the mud, and about how ignorant I was of what a horse needed.

"I did not think of myself as an author. A book allows you to step into somebody else's shoes and get a glimpse into something you haven't before."

As well as humour, Horseplay gives an insight into how animals can help people cope with illness.

RIDING ON: Author Gillian Ware

The reaction so far has been positive, with readers giving the book rave reviews on Amazon, hailing it as "inspirational" and "laugh out loud" funny.

Now Mrs Ware is considering her second book about her latest project, a young horse named Rosebud who joins her other horse Daisy.

Mrs Ware will be signing copies of her book at Waterstones branches over the next few months. She will be at Ashford on September 1 from 10am, St Margaret's Street in Canterbury on September 22 from 2pm, and Lakeside on October 27 from noon.

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HERITAGE

Photos reveal annual invasion of 'foreign' hop picking army

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GOOD PICK: The hop picking pictures tell of a different way of life

KENT is world famous for its hops and the people who flocked annually to the county to pick them from enormous hop poles.

And now, thanks to some extraordinary work by the Kent Archaeological Society, we can see what those times and people looked like.

The society has been working flat out restoring photographs taken at the time.

The way the picking is done has changed over the generations, but the society has tracked a collection of astonishing snaps taken as the traditional method of hop picking was coming to an end.

It was 60 years ago this summer that Kent's hop farmers were preparing for what would be one of the last seasons when they would be picked by hand.

A decade on, and the machines started moving in, and forever changed the way the industry looked. Even the poles became shorter over the years.

To remind us of 'the old days and ways', an archive of photographs taken when thousands of East End Londoners invaded Kent for their annual working holidays on the hop farms is being restored by members of the society's visual records group.

The photographs were found among documents covering nearly 100 years from 1865 that once belonged to the Weald of Kent Hop-Pickers' Mission. It had 15 ministers and missionaries and their volunteers held prayer meetings and even dispensed free teas in the hop-gardens. They were also key in advancing the workers' health and welfare.

Large numbers of 'foreign' hop pickers, as local people called them, started coming to the Weald of Kent in 1868, when mainline railway services from London Bridge reached Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Marden, Staplehurst, and Pluckley.

From 1893 they could transfer on to Colonel Stephens' branch line from Paddock Wood, and from 1905 on to his railway from Headcorn, to reach destinations in the heart of the Weald,

The pickers then travelled on horse-drawn wagons, trailers and often on foot to their camps of huts and hovels in the hop gardens.

Most of the farms served by the Mission were around Cranbrook, Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst, Staplehurst and Yalding.

In the 1960s half of Britain's hops were grown in Kent, on 9,000 acres.

The KAS has now managed to index more than 20,000 images dating back to the early 18th century. Many are available at www.kentarchaeology.org,uk and the work continues with hundreds more being scanned for publication.

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POLICING

Independent's funding moans over police poll dismissed by parties

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PROSPECTIVE candidates for the new Police and Crime Commissioner role have become embroiled in a spat after an independent hopeful accused political parties of hijacking the elections.

Kent's most high-profile independent candidate, Ann Barnes, led a delegation to Downing Street to protest against what she claims is "election unfairness".

In a letter to Prime Minister David Cameron, she demanded the Government use state funds to pay for mailshots as in parliamentary elections, where information about each candidate is posted out to voters.

The Home Office has refused to do the same for the PCC polls, arguing it would cost £25m-£35m nationwide, and that details will be online and information posted to those who want it.

But Mrs Barnes, who is former chair of Kent Police Authority, the body being replaced by the PCC in November, argued that political candidates have the advantage of the "party machine" to help fund electoral campaigns, including mailshots, unlike independent candidates.

Each hopeful is allowed to spend up to £228,338 in Kent, with a £5,000 deposit to stand.

Mrs Barnes said: "The Government has repeatedly stated it wanted strong, local independent candidates to come forward as potential police commissioners. However, it is denying them the state-funded election address to every elector that they would have had should they have been standing as an MP.

"My letter asked the Prime Minister to personally intervene and ensure the Home Office's refusal of state-funded election address to every voter is overturned.

"David Cameron is constantly saying that society should be open, fair and just. This election is none of these. It is being hijacked by the main political parties with their 'party machines' and 'party money'."

But Labour's prospective PCC candidate Harriet Yeo, an Ashford councillor, reacted furiously, saying her campaign was not being funded by the party.

"I am left to my own devices to fund my own campaign," she said. "We have to raise our own finances. I'll be doing that how every other prospective candidate will be.

"Ann Barnes can afford to spend money on newspaper advertising – I can't afford to do that. I don't think she's that hard done by."

PROTEST: Independent candidate Ann Barnes says she is making a stand against 'election unfairness'

Ms Yeo also questioned how Mrs Barnes was not aware of the Government's decision not to fund mailshots.

"I've read reports that she didn't know about this, but she was chair of the Kent Police Authority – how did she not know? It was made clear from the start to prospective candidates."

Tory candidate Craig Mackinlay, a Medway councillor and magistrate, also reacted with fury over claims of party-funded campaigns.

"This is absolutely not true – the party is not awash with cash," he said. "I will need to raise the money and rely on donations from supporters.

"Political parties are a group of like-minded people who decided to join together to advance a common thread of values.

"An independent could have done that months ago – rallied support and really made a go of it.

"If they are incapable of getting support from people, it should not be the taxpayer who picks up the enormous bill.

"Independent candidates entering the race did so knowing that there would be no free delivery; for independent candidates now to claim that this is somehow unfair is disingenuous.

"The cost to the Kent taxpayer of a free election address distribution could be in the order of £1.2m, enough to pay for 40 frontline police officers."

Voters will take to the polls on November 15 to elect the PCC to replace KPA.

The successful candidate will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the police budget, write a police and crime plan, and commission services.

Prospective candidates include Steven Uncles (English Democrats) and independents Dai Liyanage, Ken Little, Fran Croucher, Fergus Wilson, and Ian Driver.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

DESTRUCTION: Author Peter Crampton captured the devastation left behind after the Great Storm

Reliving havoc caused by 1987 Great Storm

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT WAS a night of noise and destruction that most people who experienced it will never forget.

Kent has a special memory for the night in 1987, when it felt like the world was coming to an end after weatherman TV Michael Fish so famously got it wrong and said there was no hurricane on the way.

But it did arrive and changed the county's landscape forever; Sevenoaks became one oak, and people lost their lives.

While we may fondly look back at those notorious early hours of October 16, the reality is for many it was truly frightening.

Now author Paul Crampton's new book, 1987 The Great Storm, relives that fateful night and how it affected his home city.

The storm raged relentlessly across south east England. In Canterbury, the author awoke amidst sounds and scenes of chaos, and immediately set out to record the resulting devastation.

Now, 25 years on, many of these photographs are appearing in colour for the first time and show the full extent of the havoc wreaked upon the city of Canterbury.

And he is using 180 archive and modern photographs to show how lucky most people were to escape without harm.

Mr Crampton had a long career with BT, but retired to start his own online second-hand bookselling business.

In addition he sells old photographs of the city from his extensive archive and has so far compiled 10 books on the city.

He said: "When I was asked to produce this book for The History Press, my first reaction was to assume that they'd got the number of years wrong. Was it as long ago as 25 years?

"My second reaction was to happily accept, and then start to assemble my collection of unique photographs from October, 1987.

"I am delighted that the new book has been produced in colour.

"My first book Before and After the Hurricane, in and around Canterbury was hurriedly produced over a two-week period, for Meresborough

Books, in 1988. They wanted it out in time for the first-year anniversary.

"Back then, the pictures were black and white, and the captions brief, so the new format has given me the ideal opportunity to revisit the project and make a proper job of it.

"I have also been able to include many more photographs that there was not room for in the first book.

"The 'hurricane' or 'great storm' of October, 1987, affected practically everybody in the South East. Everyone had their own particular story to tell; be it one of a hazardous journey, damage to home and garden, or a long period without electricity.

"The British thrive in adversity, just as we had in World War Two, and the shocking events of October, 1987, united the population in its windy wake.

"We all pulled together; we all helped each other and, most of all, we all exchanged our own stories of our individual experiences of that unexpected night.

"The 25th anniversary of the Great Storm will give us the chance to dust off those stories and tell them all over again.

"My book, now updated with current photographs, will provide a convenient storyboard for all those exciting reminiscences."

OPINION

Participation is real gold medal

Now the London 2012 Olympic Games are over **Rehman Chishti** says it's more important than ever that we embrace their sporting legacy

LONDON 2012 has been a phenomenal success.

The organisation has been slick, the broadcasting world-class, and Team GB has produced some of the most sensational performances in history.

And we have the Paralympics in two weeks, which I'm sure will be just as inspirational.

Kent and Medway have also benefited from this success. Medway Park, in my constituency, hosted the athletic team from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Egyptian boxing team. And it is hosting the British Transplant Games at the end of the month.

For me however, the end of the Games is only the start of our Olympic and Paralympic journey. Like most, I see the Games as a catalyst to inspire a generation into sport. That was what was so compelling about winning the bid in 2005.

Since being elected as the Member of Parliament for Gillingham and Rainham, I have made it my personal mission to understand what is being done to make the most of the opportunity; what I have learnt, is that sport is doing a remarkable job but many myths still exist.

While the debate goes on about how to best deliver sport in school, the power of the School Games is taking effect. In its very first year 12,000 schools signed up and 100,000 children took part. A phenomenal achievement in such a short space of time.

While outdated views continue with the suggestion that playing fields are still being sold off at a detrimental rate, the Government is further progressing Sir John Major's vision for protecting playing fields.

In March it was announced that communities can now designate extra protection from development for green spaces of special significance. This is in addition to Sport England's continued investment in playing fields – 109 pitches were created or upgraded in the last 12 months.

And while some question the capability of the sports themselves to cope with the sudden surge in interest, sport is capitalising on the Games' advert by running come-and-try events, introducing variations of their sport, and mobilising their clubs like never before.

Since the start of the Games, more than 250 people have been joining British Cycling every day, England Volleyball has reported an 850 per cent increase in traffic to its site, and several thousand people have played tennis at the live sites at Victoria Park and Hyde Park.

The sporting offer is more advanced and individualised than ever, which is why more than one million more people are playing sport once a week since the bid was won in 2005.

I see the Games as a catalyst to inspire a generation into sport

In Medway we have many excellent sporting facilities and opportunities. One of our particular achievements has been the Medway Mile, which is now going to continue for a seventh year after it attracted more than 3,000 participants.

It is true to say that enabling more children and young people into sport is still the greatest challenge, but from what I have seen we're on the right road.

Coming third in the medals table is impressive. Our next challenge should be to come top of the global sports participation table.

We're only at the start of the legacy journey but we know we can deliver; now everyone needs to work harder than ever to keep the momentum going.

■ **Rehman Chishti is the Conservative MP for for Gillingham and Rainham**

KOS COMMENT

Old story of increased fares for train travel

IT'S the same old story, year after year cash-strapped commuters face huge hikes in their rail fares.

This week, rail passengers were left fuming after it was announced hundreds of pounds would be added to their already expensive tickets.

It is disgraceful that some areas could face rises of up to 11 per cent, putting added pressure on families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

With high unemployment an issue all over the country, it is vital the people of Kent are able to travel to work in London at a reasonable price.

As pressure mounts on the Government to take action, only time will tell if anyone is actually listening.

Well done for A-levels

WELL done to all those students who received their A-level results this week.

For many, Thursday was the climax of two years of hard work to achieve a place at university.

Commiserations to those who didn't get the grades they were after, let's hope they still go on to achieve their dreams.

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Perseid meteors at Bawley Bay, Gravesend by Andrew Whittaker

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Website won't change drivers

REFERENCING your 'read the road' article, August 12,

Having just had my cat killed on the road outside my house, a rural road in Waltham, in the same spot as my previous cat was killed last year, I see speeding drivers every day.

The campaign is well meaning no doubt. It's easy to chuck a few words on a website and report to the media you've done so, but it won't have any effect. You need to study the reasons and target the offenders.

A large part of the problem is delivery drivers who don't know the area and are on time schedules (the sooner they deliver the sooner they get home or the more they get paid). This has become more of an issue with the rise in internet shopping.

If you are selfish and have no common sense, you are not likely to be contrite and feel guilty enough to go to this website to get advice.

The only way you will learn a lesson is at 60 miles an hour to hit a tree, a horse's backside or a child on a bicycle. If it is the latter and you survive, you may wish you hadn't.

Mike Thompson, editor PAWNews, Waltham

Speed limits are too high

I RECENTLY drove to Yalding, via East Farleigh, on a route I used to travel regularly.

I was astonished to discover that a 50mph speed limit had been extended along a section of the road before vehicles have even left the village. It then continues almost to the sharp left bend with the right turn towards Teston, passing another 50mph sign fixed to the same post as a narrow road warning sign. Just before the bend the speed limit is reduced to 40mph, but it would be irresponsible of any driver to attempt the bend at that speed.

Nevertheless, those who considered it appropriate to introduce the 50mph limit don't restrict the progress of the impatient driver for very long as it soon comes back into effect along this narrow country road around bends and along a section notorious for flooding.

Who approved this limit, when there is simply no justification? Why do those who control these matters allow themselves to be persuaded by the transport lobby into introducing wholly inappropriate limits along rural roads? The time to stop doing so is long overdue.

The authorities should be considering the introduction of reduced speed limits along such roads. That would be in the wider public interest and far more beneficial to all.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

Better service is our priority

LIKE Cllr Isaac Igwe (Opinion, August 12), we are determined to see better services for people of working age with mental illness who are experiencing a crisis.

This is why a consultation on mental health crisis services is currently under way in Kent and Medway.

As well as further strengthening crisis care at home, we aim to develop centres of excellence, at Little Brook Hospital, Dartford; Priority House, Maidstone; and St Martin's Hospital, Canterbury, for those people who need time as an inpatient.

These centres will offer a highly expert, specialist service for those who cannot be looked after at home due to risk to themselves or others, or because their friends or family are no longer able to help.

Patients will be conveyed to the centres where they will have more access to consultant psychiatrists, qualified nurses and therapists as well as single en suite rooms, and easy access to the outdoors.

Our analysis of demand shows that while the same number of beds as now – 35 – are needed for people from Medway, Sittingbourne and Sheppey (the current number of beds at Medway's A Block for people of working age), more beds are needed in east Kent, and fewer in west Kent. Under our plans, more patients will go to the centre for their area – improving the links with their community and crisis teams and helping them get home faster.

People from Medway would be inpatients in Little Brook, Dartford. We are consulting on which of the centres of excellence would be best for people from Sittingbourne and Sheppey; and also Swanley.

Read about it and have your say at www.kmpt.nhs.uk/acute-mental-health-review or attend one of the meetings.

Dr Rosarii Harte, assistant medical director for Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, and Lauretta Kavanagh director of commissioning for mental health and substance misuse, NHS Kent and Medway

Cash or power for candidates?

IT seems that every time I read your paper there is a new candidate for the job of police and crime commissioner.

One wonders how many would be interested in the job if it paid just £20,000 a year, instead of £85,000 plus perks?

But then looking at some of the more wealthy candidates, money may not mean their first priority, just the power and influence is enough.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Sports still face cash cuts

TEAM GB's success in the Olympics has already stimulated an in interest in sport.

Kent Green Party is concerned there may not be the future funds to sustain many local sports associations.

Local government supports sports associations with grants. But planned cuts in local government spending may diminish these. Local government has borne a disproportionate share of public expenditure cuts.

Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, tried to cut £162m from the school sports partnership in 2010 and was forced by public protest to retain £47m. But sports spending is too low, and is only guaranteed until 2016. The Government is also cutting funds for sixth form PE.

As Dame Kelly Holmes and other Olympic contestants have suggested, two-hour compulsory PE should be a minimum standard. This was dropped by Michael Gove.

So the Government is guilty of facing two ways: claiming it will up sports spending for schools which it has been cutting back; and threatening further cuts in local government spending which will reduce grants for sport.

The Coalition is quick to cut but slow to collect taxes from the wealthiest groups.

Stuart Jeffery, Chair, Kent Green Party

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Is there any real cash value to my war stock?

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q Have you heard of government war stock? I have a certificate for £400 that has been in my family for many years. Is it worth anything?

A War stock was first issued by the government almost a century ago, to raise cash for the World War One. It still trades on the stock market, and a £400 certificate is worth about £380.

Q We have found a buyer for our house, and we shall rent somewhere for at least a few months while we find a new home for our retirement. After selling our house, we shall have about £280,000 cash until we buy somewhere else. Where should we deposit this, and will it be protected by the banks' compensation scheme, as I understand there is a ceiling on the amount covered?

A The official Financial Services Compensation Scheme covers up to £85,000 of bank deposits per person per bank.

In other words, you could have a joint account with cover of £170,000, and you can also spread your money around different banks, since the compensation ceiling applies separately to each bank.

The Consumer Panel, which advises the Financial Services Authority, has been pressing for a long time for a £1m limit on temporary high deposits, so far without success.

This would protect people like you, who are buying or selling property, and people who inherit a large lump sum. Nobody should have to face the nightmare situation where a bank fails, just as a large sum is passing through it.

You may need your money at short notice so choose easy-access accounts. Coventry Building Society (0845 766 5522) currently offers 3.25 per cent on its Telephone Saver account. Santander's E-saver (0800 389 9875) yields 3.2 per cent.

Q I will reach 65 shortly and have been told that my state pension will be £116 a week. However, if I postpone drawing the pension, it will increase. I cannot work out whether the increases make this worthwhile, and I would appreciate your advice. I shall have a small job pension so I could afford to wait.

A There are two ways to look at this. The first is that the extra state pension you earn is very generous. For every five weeks you postpone your pension, it will increase by one per cent. That is about 10.4 per cent a year. Try finding a savings account that offers this kind of return.

On the other hand, if you decide not to draw your £116 for five weeks, that is £580 you have surrendered to the government.

The extra one per cent this earns will amount to £1.16 a week, and it would take almost 10 years for this to pay you the £580 you surrendered. Only after that would you start to show a real gain.

The bottom line is that you can make a genuine profit only if you live long enough. If you are in good health and people in your family live long lives, deferment may be worthwhile, but otherwise not.

Q We looked into equity release schemes to free some capital from our house, but they seemed poor value. Our son, who lives in Australia, has said he will buy the house from us, and we are happy to sell to him at well below market value as he would inherit it from us anyway. Naturally, we would remain in the house for life. However, we have been told by a friend that our son would have to pay a lot of capital gains tax when he eventually sells the property. Is this right?

A If your son is living permanently in Australia and has been for some time, he escapes UK capital gains tax as he is non-resident for tax purposes. But it would be sensible to get him to check the Australian tax rules, too.

Q You wrote recently that Alliance & Leicester savings are now the responsibility of Santander. Similarly, can you say where Halifax stands?

A Halifax is part of Lloyds Banking Group but it has kept its own licence, so as far as compensation protection is concerned, if you have deposits in both they are not added together and you would get two bites at the compensation cherry.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

It's time to invest in the future for your children

Saving is far from our minds at the moment. But a junior Isa can lead to a six-figure windfall on your child's 18th birthday, **ADAM AIKEN** reports

THERE is still no end in sight to the economic problems facing millions of families.

We have just passed the fifth anniversary of the start of the credit crunch, which led to the downturn, the banking crisis and the recession, but there is no suggestion we are out of the woods yet.

With soaring unemployment and less spare money to go round, saving for the future is something that has slipped down the list of priorities for many people.

But for parents who do still have some spare cash around, there are some simple, tax-free ways of building a savings pot for their children.

Child trust funds (CTFs) were introduced 10 years ago in a bid to encourage a savings culture for children. They were closed to new entrants last year, but there are now junior Isas in their place – and a pot of £100,000 by the time a child turns 18 is not an unrealistic target.

"Parents and grandparents recognise the importance of building a nest egg for their children," said Danny Cox, head of advice at Hargreaves Lansdown.

"A junior Isa offers the opportunity to build that nest egg in a tax-free environment with their savings ring-fenced until age 18, avoiding the temptation to spend earlier."

Do not be fooled by the idea that because the vast majority of children are not taxpayers, an Isa is unnecessary. As soon as a child's savings account brings in interest of £100 a year or more, that money is treated as though it belongs to a parent, and income tax is payable.

Junior Isas – depending on the type of account – can also give young people exposure to the stockmarket.

CASH: Opening a savings account for your child will be of long-term benefit

"A junior Isa provides a simple and cost-effective route to long-term saving and investing, without the ownership and tax complications of parental investing," Mr Cox said.

However, CTFs still exist for people born between certain dates – and these children are not allowed to open junior Isas.

Mr Cox said the picture was a confusing one, with two types of tax-free accounts running side by side.

"Junior Isas have had a slow start but this is not surprising given the current economic climate," he said.

"New products always take time to bed in and not all providers were ready at launch.

"It's not helped by the fact that children with CTFs are not eligible for junior Isas, disadvantaging about six million children."

As a rule of thumb, junior Isas tend to be offered by the same providers who offer standard Isas. Banks and building societies are one place to start, or speak to your independent financial adviser.

WHAT IS A JUNIOR ISA?

AN individual savings account (Isa) is a tax-free account most commonly associated with adults.

At the moment, each taxpayer can save up to £11,280 a year in Isas. The money can be saved in a cash account or a stockmarket-linked account, or in a combination of the two.

A junior Isa works in the same way, albeit with lower annual limits of £3,600, this is set to rise in line with inflation.

"Junior Isas are not subject to capital gains tax, and there is no income tax on savings and no further tax on dividend income," said Danny Cox, at Hargreaves Lansdown.

And the savings can quickly build up. Shaun Braybrook, an independent financial adviser at NW Brown & Co, said that £3,600 invested annually for 18 years with growth of five per cent a year could result in a nest egg of just over £105,000 by the time the child turns 18.

In the early years, parents run junior Isas on behalf of their children (although they are not allowed to withdraw the money). Children are allowed to take over the management when they turn 16, but they cannot withdraw until their 18th birthday.

Mr Braybrook said: "If they do not withdraw their money when they turn 18, it will automatically become a standard Isa."

WHAT IS A CHILD TRUST FUND?

A CHILD trust fund (CTF) is a tax-free savings account available to children born between September 1, 2002, and January 2, 2011.

The taxpayer gave a voucher – usually worth £250 – to each eligible child, and the plan was for a further contribution from public funds when the child turned seven.

Following the 2010 general election, the new government announced plans to scrap CTF for new entrants, and to stop the birthday payments.

However, it is important for parents of children born within the CTF timeframe not to overlook the accounts – a child who originally qualified is still able to use it.

"Existing CTFs will continue to run as scheduled until the child's 18th birthday," said Mr Braybrook, at NW Brown & Co. "Contributions of up to £3,600 a year can be paid in, in line with junior Isas."

He added: "Children born before the January, 2011, deadline can still open an account, in cases where child benefit was being received (even if for only one day)."

The amount paid in by the Government will be either £50 or £250, depending on the exact date of birth, but no seventh birthday top-ups will be made.

"Investment options are a bit more limited than with junior Isas," said Mr Braybrook. "But CTFs represent a tax-efficient way of saving for children, and they now have the same contribution limits as junior Isas."

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You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Punishing new tax policies could push French top-earners to Kent

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FRENCH businesses could be flocking to Kent after top-earners raised the alarm over stringent new tax laws aimed at cutting the country's deficit.

Investment from across the Channel in the county's business community is already growing and the punitive laws being introduced on high salaries by President Francois Hollande's left-of-centre administration is set to create a further influx.

The new French government is proposing tax changes that would see its country's highest earners facing a 75 per cent rate and scrapping tax breaks on overtime.

The UK is now seen as such an attractive destination for disillusioned French citizens that their numbers in London make it the equivalent of the sixth largest city in France, and Locate in Kent – which promotes investment in the county – says it is working hard to tap into that market.

This week a Paris law firm revealed it had been inundated with wealthy businessmen asking if they should leave France after President Hollande – the first socialist to hold power in France since Francois Mitterand in the 1980s – vowed to impose the 75 per cent tax on income above one million euros.

RELOCATION: A proposed 75 per cent tax on French earnings has prompted high-earners to look across the Channel

His proposal will be debated when parliament resumes in September and he has vowed to reduce France's budget deficit from 4.5 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product to 3 per cent next year.

Vincent Grandil, partner of Altexis, which specialises in tax law, admitted his company has been receiving concerned calls from high-earners since the announcement.

He told The New York Times: "Even young, dynamic people pulling in 200,000 euros are wondering whether to remain in a country where making money is not considered a good thing."

Because of its excellent transport links by sea and rail, Kent is in prime position to take advantage of the Gallic exodus – with the advanatge over London of lower property prices in both commercial and residential sectors.

Locate in Kent figures show that over the past five years 17 firms from France have relocated to Kent or reaffirmed their commitment to the county, compared with 12 from Germany.

"There are many reasons for these encouraging figures, not least that as an organisation we have been working hard to generate opportunities from northern Europe, and particularly France," said Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent.

"We have formed a partnership with a French agency which assists us with lead generation in a particularly fruitful market, and we have targeted overseas trade exhibitions for sectors for which we believe Kent has a strong offer, such as wind energy in Germany and Denmark and life sciences in the US."

Over the past five years, foreign direct investment (fdi) overall has grown from 16 per cent of Locate in Kent's successes to 28 per cent.

In the last financial year, 21 overseas companies came to or expanded in Kent via the agency, creating or retaining 1,491 jobs, 46 per cent of all those created or retained and the biggest number of fdi jobs for five years.

Wookey added that Locate in Kent had also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), which gives it access to UKTI's database of companies interested in locating in the UK, allowing it to identify those for which Kent offers a compelling proposition and to approach them directly.

Successes other than the French investments include South African company Document Warehouse bringing 200 jobs to Ashford through its first foray into the UK and a German distribution company setting up in Medway with 23 jobs.

"It is important that we continue to generate fdi projects and convert them into success as figures show that on average they result in more jobs than UK-based companies investing in Kent," said Wookey.

"Last year, the average number of jobs created by fdi projects was 56 compared with 18 for UK successes. Over the past five years that average is 73 jobs for fdi projects, compared with 43 for UK projects.

"That is why we have put so much effort into our networks and are so encouraged by these latest figures."

FOOD AND DRINK

Crisps have good taste

KENT Crisps has won gold in the Great Taste Awards for the second year with its Ashmore cheese-and-onion crisps.

The awards are organised by the Guild of Fine Food to celebrate the UK's best speciality foods.

Judges commended the Ashmore cheese-and-onion flavour crisps for their "crisp texture" and "well-balanced, clean flavour".

Produced by Quex Foods in Birchington, using home-grown potatoes that are hand-cooked, Kent Crisps reflects the tastes and landscapes of the Garden of England.

Angie Curwen, managing director at Quex Foods, said: "This second award celebrates the quality of the Kent-grown potatoes used in each bag and the outstanding flavour of Cheesemakers of Canterbury's Cheddar-style Ashmore Cheese."

IT'S CRUNCH TIME: The award-winning Kent Crisps range

The Kent Crisps range includes another four flavours: roast beef and Spitfire ale; oyster and vinegar; sea salt; and sea salt and Biddenden cider vinegar.

Quex Foods also won a gold award for Quex Foods sunflower oil, which judges described as "delicate, nutty, seedy and warm, with a clean palate and finish".

The Great Taste Awards are the most trusted and recognised food and drink awards, with 350 experts judging which entries would achieve the coveted gold standard.

Waitrose stores in Hythe, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Sevenoaks and Biggin Hill are set to stock Kent Crisps, joining Waitrose supermarkets at Dartford, Canterbury, Bluewater, Ramsgate and Ashford.

Curwen said: "Now more shoppers than ever can enjoy the great flavours of Kent Crisps. Using our own Kent potatoes, we create delicious snacks which celebrate the best flavours and producers."

FIRM FORMATION

Optimism grows in one town, with record number of new companies

GRAVESEND has set a record for company formations during the first six months of 2012, according to research by Duport.co.uk.

A total of 414 new businesses were formed in the town between January and June this year, setting a new record for the first six months of any year since records began. The previous local record of 366 new businesses was set in the first six months of 2010.

Peter Valaitis, managing director of Duport.co.uk, a leading UK company formation agent, said: "This is amazing news – the entrepreneurs of Gravesend are showing incredible resilience and optimism."

This comes on top of other positive stories about the Kent economy, with the unemployment rate falling and fewer firms going into insolvency in June.

Smaller companies are leading the way with the fall in insolvency rates, as medium and large firms experienced an increase in the number of companies going bust.

Experian Business Information Services released the data. A spokesman said: "Although the overall figures for June show a fairly stable environment led by smaller firms, the higher insolvency rate at the top end of the business world will have an impact on the supply chain.

"When taking on new business, it is vital they start to monitor the health of both customers and suppliers.

"They can be in a better position to deal with the impact of another business's failure."

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RECOGNITION

Role models are inspiring women to go for success

THE winner of a prestigious annual accolade for talented businesswomen has talked about the importance of having coaching and being inspired by strong female role models.

Sevenoaks-based Amber Wilkinson, acting head of finance at AXA PPP healthcare, said she was "delighted and honoured" to win the 2012 Women In The City Future Leaders Award at a breakfast at Trinity House in London.

The award, sponsored by performance management organisation Eureka Learning, acknowledges the achievements and leadership potential of fast-track women in the early stages of their management career.

And shortly after being announced as the winner by Eureka Learning managing director Michele Edis, Wilkinson said coaching had helped her make significant progress in her own career.

She said: "I had a personal coach for a long time. I think it is so important. We have got mentors within our business and I have started mentoring people myself. I get huge pleasure out of developing our more junior employees."

Wilkinson also highlighted the importance of female role models in business: "I try to act as a role model in my own workplace and it is important that women have others they can look up to and be inspired by if they are to become future business-leaders themselves."

Edis said: "All of this year's candidates were exceptional and committed to investing in their personal and professional development. It was incredibly difficult to pick a winner from the short-list, but Amber is a truly outstanding individual and deserves the award.

"Eureka Learning is committed to helping people like Amber realise their leadership potential and I am delighted that she has talked about the importance of coaching in her development.

"Engaging the services of a coach can be critical in helping career people make the right professional choices and strike the work-life balance to help them progress."

Wilkinson's prize for winning the award was a place on the Bedford-based Cranfield University School of Management's Accelerated Talent Development Programme for high-potential managers; it is worth some £12,500.

Organisers preparing for loss as festival fails to hit previous highs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MUSIC Festivals, the company behind the Hop Farm Festival, which this year featured Bob Dylan and Peter Gabriel, has said it expects to make a loss in 2012.

The Paddock Wood event has established itself as part of the UK's summer circuit and is aimed at older rock fans, with big-name acts from the1960s, 70s and 80s frequently headlining. Last year, Prince, The Eagles, Lou Reed and former Smiths frontman Morrissey all played sets.

Music Festivals, which also owns the Feis Festival in London and Benicassim and Costa de Fuego events in Spain, said it had been hit by weaker-than-expected ticket sales.

The company, run by businessman Vince Power, admitted that artists such as Peter Gabriel, Ray Davies, Suede, Patti Smith and George Clinton had failed to draw the crowds to Kent, despite Glastonbury taking a break this year.

It added that Benicassim, which draws a younger crowd and focuses on indie rock, pop, rap and electronic music, made a profit but less than that recorded last year.

The statement read: "The group's two main festivals were held in July 2012 and as set out in the announcement dated July 3, 2012, tickets sales at that date led the directors to believe the Group's financial results for the year ending December 31, 2012, would be significantly lower than market expectations.

HOW DOES IT FEEL? Bob Dylan played the Hop Farm gig, which made a loss

"The group was particularly impacted by weaker than expected ticket sales at Hop Farm Music Festival which was loss-making. The Benicassim festival continued to be profitable but at a lower level than 2011.

"As a result, the group currently expects to report a material loss for the year ending December 31, 2012, and is exploring ways of raising additional working capital."

Staged for the first time in 2008, the Hop Farm event was nominated at the UK Festival Awards that year for Best New Festival. At the time, it was a 30,000-capacity festival centered on folk and independent music, with no sponsorship or branding. Children aged under 12 are still granted free entry.

In Music Festivals's latest annual results, to December 31, 2011, the company saw pre-tax profits of £795,624 on revenues of £13m. Shares fell 20.8 per cent to 9.5 pence when the figures were announced.

There is better news for the company about two dates organised for Leonard Cohen. Tickets for Saturday, September 8, have now sold out for the singer-songwriter's appearance at A Day At The Hop Farm.

This follows the addition of a second date due to extraordinary demand on Sunday, September 9 – now the only tickets available.

Power said: "The demand has been overwhelming and it's fantastic to see the Saturday sell out. These will be Leonard Cohen's only UK dates this year and we're over the moon he's decided to play them here. Sunday tickets are selling fast, so fans need to get them while they can."

AWARDS

Double recognition for website provider

BEARSTED-BASED GForces, the automotive web and software firm, has picked up a number of prestigious industry awards this month.

The firm first scooped the Best Website accolade at the Motor Trader Awards and, just days later, Best Web Design For Franchised Dealers in the Car Dealer Power awards.

The Best Website honour was given for the site built and maintained by GForces for Lookers, the UK's fifth-largest car-dealer group.

GForces also had several products highly commended. The awards ceremony was organised by industry magazine Motor Trader and took place at Grosvenor House Hotel in London; it was compered by Jake Humphrey, presenter of the BBC's F1 coverage.

The company also won the Best Web Design For Franchised Dealers award from Car Dealer Magazine in Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower.

Tim Smith, GForces commercial director, said: "It's always good to see our efforts rewarded. What we produce as a company is testament to our staff, who strive to deliver true innovation in digital marketing and deliver the highest quality of service to our clients.

"We're proud of just how talented [the] GForces team is. These awards shine a light on the quality of talent being produced in Kent."

Lookers group managing director Andy Bruce said: "Our website is one of the largest and most complex in the industry. For it to remain so clear, concise, usable and effective at marketing the Lookers brand online demonstrates the huge efforts and abilities of GForces, and the quality of our collaboration with them.

"As a company, they continually push the boundaries of online automotive marketing, in turn prompting us to do likewise. They are a real asset as a partner to our business."

Enjoy tax advantaged, not avoidance

WITH the spotlight continuing to focus on tax avoidance – after the dealings of celebrities such as Jimmy Carr hit the headlines – financial advisers at Crowe Clark Whitehill have suggested it's a case of buyer beware when it comes to cutting tax.

The Treasury is looking to secure the maximum tax revenues in its bid to bring the public deficit under control.

As a result, the call has gone out to HMRC to tighten up a number of schemes, according to Julian Hanrahan, independent financial adviser at Crowe Clark Whitehill, a leading national firm offering audit, tax and advisory services, with offices in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.

TIP: Julian Hanrahan

Hanrahan said: "The public should know that everyone providing tax advice in the UK is well aware of HMRC's view of such strategies.

"This has been reinforced through the courts in a series of defeats for the taxpayer, or rather tax-avoider. The taxman is strongly clamping down on strategies that seek to exploit a Government-endorsed tax relief in such a way to increase the benefit of the relief beyond what was intended by Parliament.

"The adage 'If it looks too good to be true, it probably is' is particularly appropriate at the moment, and members of the public looking to improve their tax planning need to take expert advice. When it comes to tax planning, the answer is tax advantaged, not tax avoidance."

Crowe Clark Whitehill Financial Planning has adopted an approach that introduces its clients to certain tax-advantaged products, such as Enterprise Investment Schemes (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCT).

Hanrahan said: "Part of our extensive due diligence undertaken before recommending such investments is to ensure that, wherever possible, advance assurance has been sought and obtained from HMRC.

"Tax schemes viewed as contentious, aggressive or simply 'too good to be true' are rejected to secure an assurance on the tax effect of the investment. It is our job to highlight the tax risks and to ensure our clients are able to make an informed decision."

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Training, courses and careers

Special open day to mark college's 65th birthday

THE rich 65-year history of Canterbury College is being celebrated in a special open day.

The Lord Mayor of Canterbury, NUS representatives, alumni and local VIPs will be among those remembering its origins as an engineering and mining college, and exploring the New Dover Road campus's range of current facilities and courses.

The organisers are laying on guided tours of the new campus, including a walk through a small exhibition of photos and press cuttings about college life from the 1940s and 1950s to the present day.

Even the food hall will be stepping back in time to deliver 1940s cuisine, and musicians will be performing tunes from the era. There will also be a traditional old school sports day on the college green featuring events from yesteryear so long as the weather holds out.

The college's recent run of achievements will also be featured in the festivities. A trophy presentation will take place for the students' union which recently won Best FE Students' Union at the NUS Awards, and more organisations will be signing up to the community covenant between the college and Armed Forces, pledging to work together for the benefit of their communities.

It all started in 1947 when Canterbury College opened as an institute specialising in engineering, building and mining at Longport – just a few hundred yards away from the New Dover Road site it now calls home. In 1964, the 2,000 students and staff moved to the College's current location, into a building that had taken three years to complete and cost £465,000.

Now it is one of the largest in the country with 10,000 students and 500-plus courses.

The open day is on August 29.

Keep the sound of music going at secondary school

CHILDREN playing music tends to stop when they move from primary to secondary school, but Kent Music is determined to keep the flame alight.

It said it wants to help parents ensure children carry their interest in music throughout their education, rather than giving up at age 11.

Teaching development manager Richard Davenport said: "There is a large drop out when children move up from primary school and Kent Music is keen to support projects and programmes that keep young people playing as they reach secondary school and encourage new students to start when they arrive."

He said it was important for parents to be aware of all the different ways that 11 to 18-year-olds could take part in music in and out of school. Parents also needed to make their own commitment to pick up children who attend after-school rehearsals.

"We want to work together with parents to make sure that each child, no matter what their personal circumstances may be, has the chance to fulfil their musical potential," said Richard.

"Parents should check with the school's head of music or visit the Kent Music website to find out about the huge range of musical opportunities available."

For more information visit www.kent-music.com or call 01622 691212.

Bluewater's Learning Shop offers a start to a career in world of retail

RETAIL DEVELOPMENT: Student Adrian Rock, 22, from Dartford who is a customer service apprentice for Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe in Bluewater, and Ben Gay, centre manager at The Learning Shop. More positions are expected to be created with the expansion of the Greenhithe shopping centre

BLUEWATER shopping centre has announced a major 20 per cent expansion plan that could create some 1,000-plus jobs.

So what better way to get in to retail than to visit the Learning Shop.

It is part of North West Kent College and based at Bluewater itself.

The shop offers a new Level 1 course in retail from September, aiming to help young people start their future and get job ready.

The college said it delivers professional training, development, recruitment and business solutions and has an 80 per cent success rate of students getting jobs.

There is a range of courses designed to help students gain the qualifications and experience they need to progress into employment or education.

The new Level 1 course is an ideal stepping stone for young people to progress onto the Level 2 and 3 Diplomas offered in Fashion Retail.

It is also highly beneficial to young people who do not know which career direction to take, as the course will prepare students by giving them employability skills and confidence. Students will learn retail knowledge, CV writing, interview techniques, customer service skills, team work, and how first impressions count.

Ben Gay, centre manager at the Learning Shop, said: "We're here because a lot of young people know that they want to work but often don't know where to start, and that's where we come in."

Tracy-Anne Lane, commercial services manager, said: "If a student is willing and motivated, we can get them in front of a potential employer.

"There are jobs out there and we can help our students get them."

The Learning Shop has excellent local business links that can help put their students into work experience placements.

They have worked closely with the EllenorLions Hospice, other local charities and Darent Valley Hospital, which has given their students valuable experience that they will need to help find a job.

The student places for this course are expected to be sought after, so get in touch while they remain available. For more information call The Learning Shop on 01322 624 445 or email learningshop@nwkcollege.ac.uk or visit www.nwkcollege.ac.uk.

Qualification will be a real home help

A QUALIFICATION on how to run a home and maintain a tenancy is being piloted in Tunbridge Wells.

It is the first national qualification that teaches individuals the skills they need and it could be rolled out nationally.

Town and Country Housing Group's 'HomeWise Tenancy Training Programme' is aimed at anyone aged 16 years or over living in supported housing, a hostel or foyer, or who are threatened with homelessness.

It can help others already in social or private-rented housing struggling to maintain a tenancy.

The Chartered Institute of Housing has partnered with the Open College Network to develop this new qualification framework, and Town and Country is the first housing association in the UK to run the free eight-week programme that meets the new accreditation standards.

It runs every Thursday night at YMCA Ryder House Hostel.

Sheena Field, who helped put it together, said: "In my experience of working with young people I have found that they are often lacking in the basic skills and knowledge required to manage a home or sustain a tenancy.

"Quite simply, they are totally unprepared for independent living.

"With the highest proportion of social housing allocation going to single young women with children – this particular group are often coping with a new family, new home and a great deal of new responsibilities that they are not equipped or trained to deal with."

Jackie Sumner, head of community investment at Town & Country said taking young people through the qualification also made economic sense: "The cost of an eviction can be as much as £15,000, this isn't necessarily about the qualification; what it gives us is the reassurance that the tenancy is going to be sustainable. This qualification fits in with our commitment to help people maintain their tenancies and then provide them with support to move into sustainable employment."

Schools & education

Student architect Jeffrey scoops major international design award

A PROMISING new architect has laid the foundation stones to a great career after winning a major international prize.

Jeffrey Adjei is studying for his graduate diploma in architecture at UCA Canterbury.

He saw off hundreds of entrants from 26 countries to win the Design for Adaptable Futures ideas contest.

The 25-year-old said: "I'm surprised and very grateful to win this. It feels great to have my work recognised in this way and will give me the motivation and confidence I need going into the final year of my degree in September."

The Adaptable Futures research centre staged the contest, asking students to create a sustainable proposal which illustrated how the life of their design would unfold over time, be that an hour, day, decade, or century.

Jeffrey's winning proposal focused on the social structures within a community space. It featured the concept of self-building and looked extensively at a continual collaborative process by linking the community with a vast network of charity and government organisations.

He said: "With the site for my project being located in my home town, this project was very personal to me.

"It felt like a unique opportunity for me to represent the best way to improve my local community."

Youngsters take their first steps on road to a career in film-making

ACTION: Students learned technical skills

TOP film-makers make millions, but they have to start somewhere. Many studied at colleges, and now aspiring film-makers in Kent are hoping to follow in the footsteps of Hollywood legends.

They have made their own science fiction series at a summer school organised by the University for the Creative Arts.

More than 30 schoolchildren aged 15-17 took part in a free two-week project at UCA Rochester and put together a trio of short films.

BBC producer Sam Supple and Spitting Image star Steve Nallon taught workshops including acting, scriptwriting and directing, while Nirpal Bhogal, director of E4's hit series Misfits, was guest of honour at the film premiere.

Each episode of the sci-fi series Mechanical Me, which explores Medway's secret past of android development, is to be put on YouTube.

Director Nirpal Bhogal said: "This summer school is a fantastic idea and a great way for young people to have their first taste of film-making.

"It's so easy for people to watch TV or film and think they could do better, but most don't understand the limitations involved.

"Part of the journey of becoming a film-maker is learning what you can do with the resources you have and this project is great at teaching this at a really young age."

And student Chris Spice added: "I really enjoyed the project and I'm pleased with how it all turned out, considering we're all young and relatively inexperienced film-makers – it looks as though we've made a really professional film."

Fellow student Edward Smyth said: "All three episodes turned out really well. We had some creative difficulties at times but overall it was good, enjoyable, interesting, funny and at times serious – so, a really good mix."

Beauticians offered nail manicure training to meet growing demand

A MAJOR import from the USA has taken such a hold in Kent that one college is now running courses to cope with the demand for nail bar staff.

MidKent College said it has seen a major increase in the number of high street nail bars.

So it has now opened new opportunities for students. The beauty sector led growth in independent stores saw a 16 per cent rise in the number of nail bars in our towns.

That's according to a survey of 500 town centres by the Local Data Company.

Seeing a need to help provide qualified and experienced staff, MidKent College is now inviting prospective students to take advantage of the extra jobs by enrolling on the Level 2 Diploma in Nail Services course.

Lecturer Karen Birtwistle said: "New nail bars are opening all the time so this is the perfect opportunity to learn job skills relevant to the industry.

"The Level 2 Diploma will mostly appeal to mature students who want to retrain so they can work in a salon or for themselves, but also to younger students who don't want to enrol on the full beauty therapy course."

Available at both the Medway and Maidstone campuses, the Diploma in Nail Services teaches skills including nail art, pedicures, manicures, and more.

For more information, visit www.midkent.ac.uk.

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The changing trend of university applications

EDUCATION experts have analysed how applications for full-time higher education have changed in 2012 – and noted a slight fall in the application rate for places.

The survey is based on those asking for full-time courses made via UCAS up to March 2012.

The main findings of this report are:

The application rate of 18-year-olds from England has fallen by about 1 per cent in 2012 (to 34 per cent) against a recent trend of annual increases of about 1 per cent.

This suggests that one young English applicant in 20 who might have been expected to apply in 2012 did not do so – a fall of 5 per cent, or some 15,000 applicants.

In England, age groups of 19 and older are 15-20 per cent less likely to apply in 2012 than in 2011. This amounts to 15,000 fewer English applicants aged 19, and a further 15,000 fewer aged 20 and over, than if application rates had stayed the same as in 2011.

There is no sign that applicants applied a year earlier than usual in 2011.

Application rates for 18-year-olds from more advantaged backgrounds fell by more between 2011 and 2012 than those from less advantaged backgrounds.

However, rates for more disadvantaged applicants have been growing at a higher level in recent cycles: taking this into account, the proportional decline is similar across backgrounds.

Most courses applied to by English applicants have tuition fees – before any fee waivers or other support – at, or near, the maximum £9,000.

OTHER OPTIONS? Applications to university in 2012 fell by about 5 per cent, or 15,000 applicants

There has been no substantial move to or from higher-fee courses compared with choices made by young applicants in previous years.

Applicants from both advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds are making much the same choice of courses in 2012 as applicants from those groups in previous years. The application rate of disadvantaged young people in England to institutions whose acceptances typically hold high UCAS tariff points in 2012 is much the same as in 2010 and 2011.

There have been no increases in the share of applications for live-at-home study in 2012 across the UK.

Young English applicants have not substantially changed their choices in 2012 in terms of expected graduate salaries.

UCAS chief executive Mary Curnock Cook said: "This analysis of the 2012 applications data shows that, although there has been a reduction in application rates where tuition fees have increased, there has not been a disproportionate effect on more disadvantaged groups.

"The 10 per cent decline in applications to English institutions reported in regular UCAS statistics is more properly interpreted as a reduced young application rate of about 5 per cent after correcting for falling populations. Application rates for older applicants have declined slightly more – by about 15-20 per cent.

"By retrofitting 2012 tuition fee rates to previous cycles, we also show that higher or lower fee rates appear to make little significant difference to application patterns. We also find no evidence of an increase in plans to study while living at home, or any significant shift towards courses with higher starting salaries on graduation.

"There is still an excess of applications over places available in 2012, although this is less exaggerated than in the previous two cycles."

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Advertiser's Announcement

Results 2012- Cambridge Olympian and Rochester A* Success

Rochester Independent College students are this week celebrating places at their first choice universities and some astounding second chance success stories.

While some stay in the independent sector from prep to sixth form it is now common for students to go private at key points in their education. Such moves allow for improved grade and university entry prospects or changes in direction after disappointing AS, A2 or GCSE results.

Rochester student Freddie Topps is celebrating a dramatic turn around in academic fortunes and a place at one of the country's most competitive universities.

Two years ago Freddie joined RIC without any GCSE passes. After two years he now has his missing English and Maths GCSEs, four top grades at A level including an A* in Fine Art and a place at Edinburgh University.

Three RIC students have won places at the most prestigious of the Cambridge University colleges- Trinity.

Top performer is Nakarin Lohitsiri who has a record 5 A* grades, all achieved in a year from scratch. This gives Nakarin who came to Kent from Thailand a record 700 UCAS points!

The average UCAS point score of students who read Maths at Cambridge is 560 so Nakarin comfortably won his place at the historic college where Isaac Newton studied.

Nakarin says: "Before coming to Rochester I represented team Thailand in the International Physics Olympiad and was awarded a gold medal, competing with students from all over the world."

Fears of A level retakers being shut out of top universities is not the experience of RIC's class of 2012. Students resitting their A levels this year won places at Russell Group Universities ranging from Bristol and Durham to Exeter and UCL.

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A little preparation is key for clearing a path to university

IT'S that dreaded time of year when the next cohort of school- and college-leavers wait to hear if they have been accepted at their chosen universities.

Each student wanting to attend university is required to fill out a UCAS (University Colleges Admission Service) application form stating their five choices of which course they want to study and at which university.

The universities then make the student an offer based on their application and can make the offer conditional – dependent on whether the student achieves the required grades.

However, some leavers will receive no offers at all or fail to make their conditional grades, forcing them to go through clearing once their exam results have been announced in order to find a different course and different university to attend.

Last year, 51,000 students found a place through clearing – but what should students and parents do to prepare for that possibility?

Would-be students can apply for whatever course is required through clearing, providing spaces are available. Students are encouraged to speak to the university first to make sure they will consider them for the course before adding them as a choice on any application.

Students who have a disappointing grade in one exam will have a chance to apply in clearing if the university and course they are interested in is available online, although in some cases an interview may be necessary

If students wish to change courses after one year and move universities, it is possible to apply for second-year entry.

UCAS Extra enables students to apply to courses different to their original choices. They can also contact universities to find out if they would be accepted so as to avoid any further headaches as well as the last-minute summer scramble.

Caroline Russell, of UCAS, believes it is a good idea for students to think carefully about alternative courses and how to talk to admissions staff.

"Prepare for that phone call as you would for an interview," she said. "You might want to ask how the course is taught, what assessment model is used, what materials you'll be expected to supply and what the accommodation arrangements are."

BE READY: Preparing for the worst when it comes to getting your grades isn't being pessimistic – it's a sensible way to ensure you make a swift journey through clearing

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Another option for your future education

NORTH West Kent College offers a range of higher-education (HE) undergraduate programmes at half the cost of university.

From £4,995, students can gain a Foundation Degree affiliated by the University of Greenwich, or a Higher National Diploma/Certificate by Edexcel and improve their chances of employability while still living at home.

The Dartford campus, where most of the courses are delivered, offers free parking and is easily accessible via rail, bus and the college's free shuttle bus service (operating to and from Dartford train station).

It is also possible to work while studying several of the HE programmes. The college's qualifications involve close links to industry, and after two years students have the opportunity to top up their qualification to a degree or go straight into industry.

CHOICE: North West Kent College offers you a different path to higher education

The college offers undergraduate programmes in business, early years, professional writing, photography (BA), travel and tourism, sports science, sports studies, performing arts and public services. In addition, the college also offers a part-time Higher National Certificate in electronic and electrical engineering at the Gravesend campus.

Brian Starbuck, curriculum manager for higher education at North West Kent College, said: "We understand the rising cost of tuition fees is making it difficult for people to go to university. We are confident that by offering higher-education programmes at a lower cost it will make it easier for students to achieve a degree qualification."

There is still time to apply, so get in touch while places remain available. You can take a look at www.nwkcollege.ac.uk or phone 0800 074 1447.

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Advertisers Announcement

Facilities-Hire at the Bishop of Rochester Academy

The Bishop of Rochester Academy in Chatham has just announced that due to local demand, key facilities at the Academy will now be made available for hire by the local community and the local business community.

The Academy is currently a dual-site school, with one Campus in Magpie Hall Road and another in nearby Letchworth Avenue. On each Campus there are key facilities which are of interest to the community - two large Assembly Halls, two modern Sports Halls, two modern Dance Studios, a traditional Gym and a number of fully equipped Cookery Rooms and Art Studios.

There are also around 50 Classrooms, which are suitable for teaching a whole range of adult education/community interest subjects, or for businesses to run training courses, plus several small Meeting Rooms which are suitable for local businesses and community groups.

Each Academy site has several Hard-Courts, marked for tennis, netball and five-a-side football.

"*We have a large school site, particularly at our Magpie Hall Road Campus, and some very good facilities.*" said Mr Boxall, the Academy Principal. "*It's only right that our facilities are made available to the local community and the local business community when not in use by our own students.*" he said.

Dance Studios

Modern, with mirror-walls, good natural light and Audio/Visual equipment, the Dance Studios are perfect as a rehearsal space for Dance/Drama Clubs or for Yoga Classes, Dance Classes, etc.

Sports Halls

Modern, marked with basketball, volleyball, badminton and five-a-side football and fully-equipped with good quality nets, etc.

Assembly Halls

With curtained Proscenium-Arch platform Stages and full lighting rigs & all Audio/Visual equipment, the Halls are ideal for a range of drama/operatics/music/dance productions, public meetings, company seminars, family parties or Wedding Receptions, Art Exhibitions or Craft Fayres, or business exhibitions/Trade Fairs, etc. Chairs/tables can be provided, and set out according to usage.

The Academy also has extensive Playing Fields at its Magpie Hall Road Campus and is making two of the fields available. Both are currently marked with pitches for playing football and good quality equipment, such as netted goals, would be provided.

Facilities at both of the Academy Campuses can be made available for hire by the community in the evenings, at weekends and daytime during school holidays - subject to Academy events.

The facilities are being made available for hire at very reasonable rates for local community use. The Academy also has an experienced team of helpful Technicians who can be available for when Audio/Visual equipment is required.

Gym (East Campus)

A 'traditional' Gym, ideal for childrens' parties, youth clubs or as a meeting space for the Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Rangers, etc. Also good for Keep Fit or Aerobics Classes, and as a rehearsal space.

Bishop of Rochester Academy
Determined to Excel

"*We've only just announced that we're making the Academy facilities available to the community and we already have bookings from a Martial Arts Club and a Fitness Class, and we've recently taken enquiries for a Judo Competition, a pre-Wedding Party and from a local Primary School to use one of our fields to run their Football Club training.*" said Annie Burrell, the Academy's Facilities Hire Co-ordinator.

All enquiries or for an Information Pack contact: **Annie Burrell**
Tel: 01634 845196 or email: **facilitieshire@boracademy.org**
Bishop of Rochester Academy, Magpie Hall Road,Chatham ME4 5JB
www.BoRAcademy.org

The Bishop of Rochester Academy's £23 Million new building is currently under construction on the Academy's East Campus site in Magpie Hall Road and Mr Boxall, the Academy Principal, has confirmed that the State-of-the-Art facilities in the 'NEW' building will also be made available for community use when it's completed next year, Spring 2013.

The Bishop of Rochester Academy
At the Heart of the Local Community

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Hair — **Ref: P0354**

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway Campus, 37 hours per week

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes on Levels 1 to 3, in a very busy department with high achievement rates. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Beauty, Part-time, Fixed Term, Maternity Cover — **Ref: P0367**

Salary: £26,336 - £30118 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway Campus, 18.5 hours per week

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Beauty Therapy — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly rate £23.44 - £27.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway Campus

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners for the new course in Body Art, starting in September 2012, and leading to the Diploma in Hair and Media Make-up at Level 2. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification, have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification, and have Beauty Make-up and Body Art practical experience. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience) Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint a passionate and creative individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Recent industry experience is essential.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in Maths — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £31.10 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Maidstone Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver the one-year Maths A Level programme. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant academic qualification and have a teaching qualification.

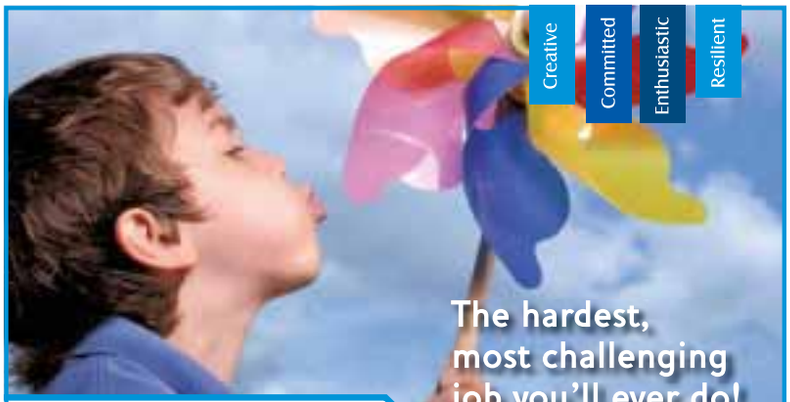
Closing date: 23 August 2012, 12 noon

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

MidKent College

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT



Bradstow School

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

£11,128 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS (TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - EDUCATION)

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school.

£12,689 per annum - 37½ hours per week, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the classrooms and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group.

£10,365 per annum – 34 hours per week, 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus two weeks*

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Thursday 30th August 2012.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Lecturer in Hair — **Ref: P0354**

Salary: £26,336 to £30,118 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) 37 hours per week. Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes on Levels 1 to 3, in a very busy department with high achievement rates. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

The successful candidates must be excellent teachers who share our passion for success and who take a proactive approach in promoting and developing the courses within the Faculty.

Closing Date: 12 noon on 23 August 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College

Swale Academies Trust

Westlands School
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

PART TIME CATERING ASSISTANT

To work in a busy school kitchen
Required for September

10 hours per week - 39 weeks per year
12.00 - 2.00 daily
Hourly rate: £6.75 - £7.38

Food preparation/cooking experience and a basic food hygiene certificate preferred, but if you have a positive attitude, good practical skills and are willing to work, we will teach you.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: Friday 23 August 2012

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

The Duke of York's Royal Military School

An Academy with Military Traditions

Co-educational boarding school: 450 pupils aged 11-18, Member of SBSA, SHMIS

HOUSE MATRON - PART-TIME/JOB SHARE

To work as a job-share in a girls' Boarding House. Duties inc supervision of pupils, dealing with parents, maintenance of clothing inc laundry, sewing, ironing, accompany pupils to medical appointments, working as a team with the housekeeper and assisting with cleaning during holidays & other absences. Applicants must be prepared to fully contribute to the general welfare of pupils and to work as part of a small team. Experience of working with young people is essential & has basic ICT skills. A first aid qualification would be an advantage. Hours: 34 per wk during term time working a shift rota over 7 days term time, week days only during holidays.

Salary £15725 per annum (pro rata)
Closing date: Midday 28th Aug
Interviews: w/c 3rd Sept

An application form & further details can be located on the school's website www.doyrms.com , emailing reception@doyrms.com or 01304 245023. CV's will not be accepted.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE Call 01303 817056 www.kentnews.co.uk

PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants Ref: LSA01

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour, variable hours. Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Closing date: 23rd August 2012, 12 noon.

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

To advertise in this section

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00950/FUL: Land to rear of 77 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DZ Erection of dwelling; formation of new vehicular access to New Dover Road. **Applicant: Kent Property Management Services Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01128/FUL: West Cottage, Crows Camp Road, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5JB Erection of replacement garage and hardstanding. (Retrospective). **Applicant: Mr Caldwell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01144/FUL: 12 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Third-floor extension to corner turret and extension to northwest elevation to provide lift to all floors. **Applicant: Mr Sundin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01169/FUL: Folly Farm, Headcorn Drive, Canterbury, CT2 7FF Demolition of existing farm buildings, erection of four dwellings with associated garaging, conversion of existing outbuilding to car-port and formation of new access from Kemsing Gardens. (Resubmission). **Applicant: Robert Brett & Sons Ltd** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01222/FUL: 20 Herne Street, Herne, CT6 7HQ Conversion of existing public house (Use Class A4) to four flats (Use Class C3). **Applicant: Adam & Gussy Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01229/FUL: 49A Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY Change of use of ground floor from Use Class A1 (retail) to Use Class A2 (professional and financial services). **Applicant: Leydon Lettings** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01231/LB: 49A Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY Retention of internal alterations to listed building in association with change of use. **Applicant: Leydon Lettings** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01265/FUL: 10 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Replacement balustrade to balcony. **Applicant: Dr Kitson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01293/FUL: 28 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AH Single-storey extension to rear. **Applicant: Mr Brown** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01333/ADV: The Beaney Institute, High Street and 14/15 Best Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2RA Illuminated wall-mounted sign on Best Lane elevation. **Applicant: Canterbury Museums and Galleries (CCC)** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01358/FUL: 17 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Erection of new garage block. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pywell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01360/FUL: Anester Cottage, London Road, Harbledown, CT2 9AN Erection of two-storey detached dwelling and detached garage. **Applicant: Mr Baker** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01364/FUL: Ground Floor Flat, 4 Beacon Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6DH Demolition of conservatory and erection of single-storey extension to rear and replacement windows to ground floor. **Applicant: Mr Fisher** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01369/FUL: 183 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3EP Erection of replacement conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms Kahol** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01372/LB: Ileden Farm House, Ileden Lane, Kingston, CT4 6HP Single-storey extension to farmhouse, internal alterations, alterations to outbuilding and landscaping. **Applicant: Mr Steel** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01379/FUL: 29-30 Watling Street, Canterbury Change of use of first floor from offices (Use Class B1) to education (Use Class D1). **Applicant: Kumon Education** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01381/LB: Whitelocks Barn, The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JQ Installation of a pair of French doors and side lights concealed by wooden shutters. **Applicant: Mr M Ball** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01383/FUL: 69-71 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AY First-floor extension and external alterations to facilitate conversion of existing first-floor unit into self-contained one bedroom flat. **Applicant: Mr M Malone** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01388/LB: 92B Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LU Addition of five slate roof vents to the south elevation. **Applicant: Mr J Barton** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01395/FUL: 1 Great Pett Oast, Pett Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AN Single-storey rear extension. (Resubmission). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Shirley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01399/ADV: Marlowe Arcade, Canterbury Replacement signage consisting of illuminated and non-illuminated signs. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01400/ADV: Longmarket Square, Canterbury Replacement of side panels on existing totem located in Longmarket Square. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01401/ADV: Clock Tower Square, Canterbury Erection of replacement non-illuminated signs. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01402/ADV: Whitefriars, Canterbury Erection of replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signs. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01404/LB: St Philip Howard RC Primary School, Avenue Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8TF External redecoration to front elevation (facing north) and repairs to existing timber windows and window moulding. **Applicant: Trustees of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01408/FUL: Payphone, Bullockstone Road, Herne, CT6 7NN Erection of replacement telephone kiosk. **Applicant: BT Payphones Planning Office** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01413/LB: 14 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, CT2 8AX Internal alterations including reinstatement of fireplaces and cupboards and installation of window to shower room. **Applicant: Ms D Holbrook** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 10 September 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 17 August 2012

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/DO/0292/2012 - Proposed development at Richborough Hall, Ramsgate Road, Richborough, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9NN.

T W Services is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for Section 73 application to vary condition 9 of planning permission DO/03/477 for the variation of hours of operation to allow vehicle movements related to Local Authority waste collection services on Bank and Public Holidays.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0151/2012 - Proposed development at Land south of Rolvenden Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4DN.

I give notice that further information has been received amending and amplifying application KCC/TW/0151/2012 submitted by Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support to Kent County Council (as the County Planning Authority) for planning permission for the erection of new Primary School building with associated hardcourt play areas, access, parking and landscaping and re-profiling and landscaping of residual land to return to pasture.

The proposed development (as amended and amplified) does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development (as amended and amplified) is close to the Benenden Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. It may also affect the setting of nearby Listed Buildings. The proposed development (as amended and amplified) affects three Public Rights of Way (WC325, WC326 and WC327).

You may view this application (as amended and amplified) at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District/Borough Council website.

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 24 OF DETERMINATION OF

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

I give notice that on 19 July 2012 Kent County Council granted planning permission for Section 73 application for minor-material amendment to planning permission DO/10/954 - Waste Processing Developments - Site B.

Re-orientation of soil washing plant; revisions to layout for lorry parking; provision of portacabin for office/staff facilities in place of permanent buiding as approved; siting of additional portacabin for mess facilities; alterations to weighbridge office building; alterations to aggregate storage bays at Site B - Land North of Stevens & Carlotti, Ramsgate Road, Richborough, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9ST **(Ref: DO/12/413).**

Members of the public may inspect free of charge copies of the application, the environmental statement (and reconsideration of relevant parts of the ES) and the Planning Permission at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ or at the offices of the Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 19th August 2012

Kent County Council

PLANNING

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 03 SEPTEMBER 2012

SW/12/0374:
Excavation of agricultural production land to create 2 reservoirs for the purpose of agricultural irrigation and erection of two screening mounds 2.5 metres in height - South Leas Farm, Lower Road, MINSTER; **REASONS 3 & 6**

SW/12/0821 & SW/12/0822:
Structural repairs to south end wall, re-introduction of missing corridor wall, strengthening of first floor ceiling beam and attic floor, introduction of attic stair and alterations to attic to form two storage spaces with two new conservation rooflights to rear roof slope, repairs/renewals to front door and bay window, including replacement of incorrect mouldings - 17 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0876:
Ground floor fireplace extension with attached log store, a covered way and a two storey store to side of existing dwelling - Redborough Barn, Stalisfield Green, STALISFIELD; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0915:
Creation of access and outbuilding - Green Farm, Stalisfield Green, STALISFIELD; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0947:
Construction of open sided canopy to cover patio at rear of house - 24 Priory Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0953:
Change of use of garage to habitable room for dependent relative and new shed - Paddock View, Staple Street, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0985 & SW/12/0986:
Change of use of No. 9 West Street to Class C1 Hotel use (including new doorway and hatch between No. 10 and No. 9 West Street). Change of Use of No. 9a West Street to Class C Hotel Use (including minor internal alteration works/new doorway between No. 9a and No. 10 West Street). Works to inner courtyard/yard areas within No. 10 - Sun Inn, 10 West Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0992:
Retrospective consent for wooden structure to be used as a smoking shelter - Three Hats, 93 High Street, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0994:
Proposed new window to north east elevation and a pair of doors to replace existing single door to north west elevation - 2A Jubilee Way, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0997:
Listed Building Consent to complete demolition of timber/glass/plastic lean-to to rear of building - Ye Olde Century, Hogbens Hill, SELLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1035:
Remodelling of existing car park to provide improved visitor and disabled parking and landscaping; relocation of bus terminus, extension to car park. (Renewal of planning permission SW/06/0896.) - Land at Kemsley Mill, Kemsley, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0588/S - LITTLE CHEVENEY FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - Retention of wood pellet storage unit. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0589/S - LITTLE CHEVENEY FARM, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NX - An application for listed building consent for Retention of wood pellet storage unit. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0599/N - 70, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Replacement of Timber front windows with UPVC. **Reason: 1 & 2**

MA/12/0600/N - 70, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Listed building consent application for the replacement of timber front windows with UPVC. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0938/S - WELL COTTAGE, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Erection of a replacement garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1270/S - CRADDUCKS LANE YARD SPILLS HILL FARM, CRADDUCKS LANE, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0DN - Erection of a new livestock building. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1280/S - WEALD GARDENS LAND OPPOSITE FAIRFIELDS, MAIDSTONE ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0RH - Change of use of land from agriculture to land for the keeping of horses for recreational purposes and the erection of stables, tack room, feed store and formation of a new vehicular access. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1284/S - 2, ELVEYS COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HY - Erection of single storey side extension (to front of existing attached garage) and conversion of garage to habitable rooms. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1310/S - WHEELWRIGHTS, HUNTON HILL, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0QX - Conversion of barn to a dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1343/N - THE OAK ON THE GREEN, THE STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EJ - Erection of single storey extension. **Reason: 1 & 2**

MA/12/1367/S - BRAMLEY ORCHARD, CLAYGATE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BD - Conversion and extension of existing detached garage to form annexe accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1369/N - COURT FARM, YELSTED LANE, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7UT - Erection of first floor extension and conversion of garage to additional living accommodation (resubmission of MA/11/1331). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1374/S - THE OAST HOUSE, ELY COURT, GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0HB - Change of use of redundant Oast House to three bedroom dwelling and adjacent land to residential use. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1380/S - WARES FARM PACKHOUSE, REDWALL LANE, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BB - Erection of extension to existing building to provide ancillary storage and staff facilities for the existing packhouse (amendment to rear extension approved under application MA/11/1367 by means of a first floor link and insertion of mezzanine with windows at first floor level). **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1384/S - KENWARD FARM COTTAGE, KENWARD ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AG - First floor and part ground floor extension (Resubmission of MA/12/0192). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1398/S - MILL FALLS, SALTS LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BD - Extension and alterations to detached garage building and extension to parking area. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1409/S - THE OAST, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Conversion of Oast House from one dwelling to two dwellings. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 -Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **2nd September 2012** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 19th August 2012.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0626/SH# - Prospect Coast Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Erection of two semi-detached dwellings and associated landscaping works (including provision of aqua therapy pool) following demolition of existing dwelling.

Y12/0627/SH# - Prospect Coast Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Conservation area consent for demolition of existing dwelling.

Y12/0719/SH - 13 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HA - Change of use and conversion of existing first, second and third floor offices to form 5 self contained flats, including first and second floor level extensions to rear, construction of enlarged dormer windows to front and rear roof slopes and other alterations (re-submission of application Y12/0268/SH).

Y12/0546/SH# - Manor House Straight Lane Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Construction of 9.144m x 4.57m swimming pool in garden area to southeast of dwelling.

Y12/0726/SH - The Manor Office & Civic Centre Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2RB - Felling of a Yew tree (T7) and partial crown lift to 5m of a Sycamore Tree (T4), both situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0445/SH+ - Ferndale 1 Station Road Hythe Kent CT21 5PL - Erection of a shed to front garden.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

(OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010
(AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2012

The Shepway District Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") in exercise of their powers under section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State (The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders) (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and of all other enabling powers hereby gives notice that the charges to be paid in connection with hourly tariffs and season tickets at off-street parking places will, on 17th September 2012 be varied as follows -

Charges apply 8am - 8pm unless otherwise indicated			
Car Park		Details of the charges on the date this notice is given	Details of the charges that are to be payable when the notice comes into force on 17/09/2012
SHORT TERM			
Folkestone:			
Upper Payers Park	Up to 30 mins	£0.80	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £0.50 (30 minutes) Maximum payment £3.00 (3 hours)
Shellons Street	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	
Foresters Way	Up to 2 hours	£2.30	
Pleydell Gardens	Up to 3 hours	£3.40	
LONG TERM			
Folkestone:			
	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £1.00 (1 hour) Maximum payment £6.00 (all day)
	Up to 2 hours	£2.30	
Harbourside	Up to 3 hours	£3.40	
Leas Cliff Hall	Up to 4 hours	£4.50	
Tram Road	Up to 5 hours	£5.70	
	Up to 6 hours	£6.70	
	Up to 12 hours	£7.90	

Car Park Season Tickets	Current charges	
Valid in all car parks where the maximum stay is over 3 hours	3 months	£125.00
	6 months	£250.00
	12 months	£500.00
Shepway Car Park Residents Permits	12 months	£52.00
Replacement permits		£5.20

Car Park Season Tickets		Proposed Charges		
Valid in all car parks where the maximum stay is over 3 hours		12 months	6 months	3 months
	At any time	£655.00	£378.00	£189.00
	6 days per week	£561.00	£280.00	£140.00
	5 days per week	£468.00	£234.00	£117.00
	4 days per week	£374.00	£187.00	£94.00
	3 days per week	£281.00	£140.00	£70.00
	2 days per week	£187.00	£94.00	£47.00
	1 day per week	£94.00	£47.00	£24.00
Shepway Car Park Residents Permits		£52.00	-	-
Replacement permits		£5.20	-	-

A copy of the Notice of Tariff Changes may be inspected at the District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Notice or of any of its provisions on the ground that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made there under has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice was published, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the Notice or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853380) during normal office hours.

A. Lague, Highways Engineer, On behalf of B. Porter,
Head of Communities, Shepway District Council,
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue,
Folkestone, CT20 2QY
19th August 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02214/FUL Beacon Mill Cottage Rolvenden Road, Benenden
- Extension and conversion of outbuilding to residential use with link from house to outbuilding, and change of use of land from agricultural to residential (LB)

12/02221/LBC Beacon Mill Cottage Rolvenden Road, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Extension and conversion of outbuilding to residential use with link from house to outbuilding, and change of use of land from agricultural to residential (LB)

12/02169/HOUSE High Banks High Street, Bidborough
- Garage conversion and single storey rear extension (CA)

12/01973/FULMJ Kippings Cross Oast Hastings Road, Brenchley
- Retrospective - horse barn, sand school, horse walker and hard standing including change of use of land to equestrian (LB) (MAJOR)

12/02212/FUL 36 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Change of use of a storage area to a one bedrom studio flat (CA)

12/02254/HOUSE The Coach House 13 Langton Road, Broadwater
- First floor side extension; Relocation of existing rooflight to existing bathroom and insertion of rooflights over existing dining area (CA)

12/02224/LBC The Freight Freight Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension (LB)

12/02225/FUL 8 Dudley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Conversion from 7 No. bedsits to 4 No. flats (CA)

12/02231/FUL Barclays Bank Plc High Street, Hawkhurst
- 2 no. external condenser units to the rear (LB) (CA)

12/02198/HOUSE Corner Cottage Haymans Hill, Horsmonden
- Retrospective - Close boarded fence 1.8m high (LB)

12/02233/LBC Heath Stores Grocers The Heath Stores, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: First floor internal alterations comprising installation of log burning stove with metal chimney (LB)

12/02179/FUL Stephen Gardiner Architects 23 Berkeley Road, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of part of ground floor from offices to residential, excluding the corner office retained for commercial use (CA) (LB)

12/02125/FUL Kent Fire Brigade Tunbridge Wells Fire Station, Park
- Decommission existing below ground diesel tank (Capacity: 4,500 litres) foam-fill redundant tank. Installation of 10,000 litre cylindrical 110% self-bunded above ground diesel tank (CA)

12/02152/FUL 63 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Change of use from recruitment agency (A2) to restaurant (A3). Minor alterations including internal openings within basement level, installation of extraction flue within existing chimney and a microlift system (CA) (LB)

12/02160/LBC 63 Calverley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use from recruitment agency (A2) to restaurant (A3). Minor alterations including internal openings within basement level, installation of extraction flue within existing chimney and a microlift system (LB)

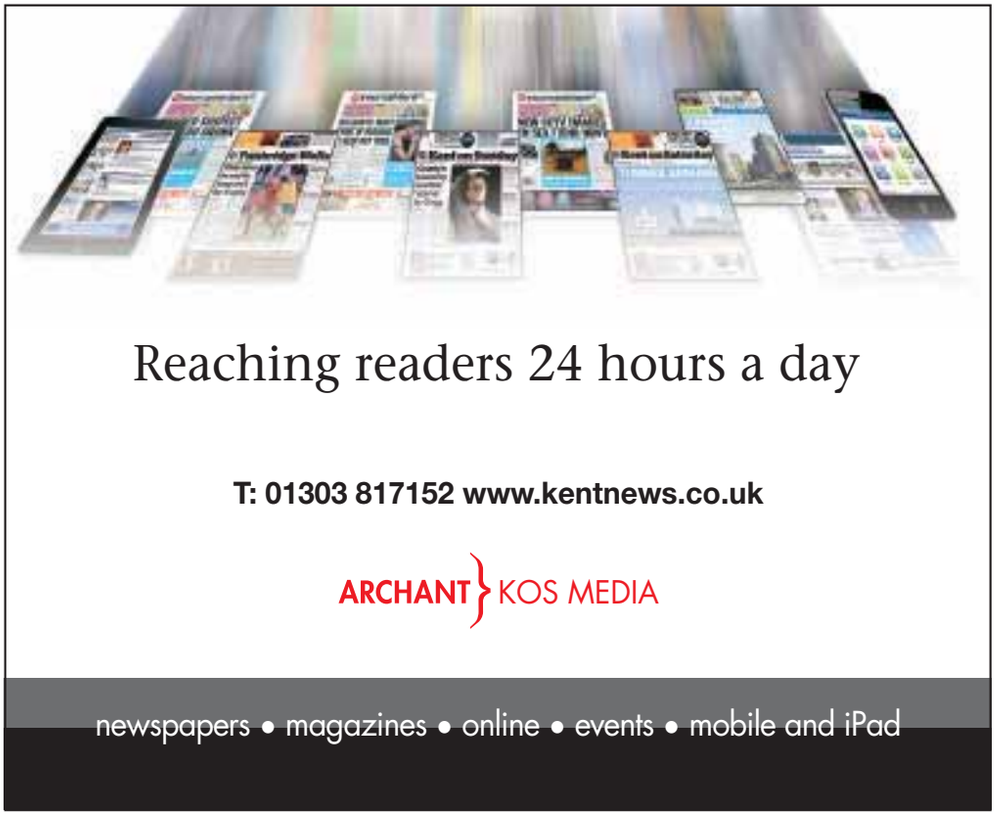
12/02196/FUL Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Four bedroom, two storey dwelling (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 18 August 2012



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - KENT

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 20th August 2012 for up to 3 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

ASHFORD

A28 CHART ROAD, ASHFORD - closed between Brookfield Road roundabout and Loudon Way

22 - 24 October 2012 - 8.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A28 Chart Road, Templer Way, Drovers Roundabout, A292 Maidstone Road, (also Chart Road in reverse), New Street, Forge Lane, West Street, Godinton Road, Elwick Road, A2042 Beaver Road, Victoria Road, Leacon Road and Brookfield Road.

A20 HYTHE ROAD ASHFORD - due to overnight resurfacing works on Hythe Road between **24 and 28 October 2012** (excluding Saturday) the following will apply

The approach road to Tesco, Willesborough will be closed overnight on Sunday 28 October between 7.30 pm until 5.00 am

The Street, Willesborough - the One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between the junctions with Hinxhill Road and A20 Hythe Road, when indicated on site.

Alternative route via A2070 Kennington Road, Willesborough Interchange and A20 Hythe Road.

The works themselves are between Junction 10 Willesborough Interchange and Summer Hill

CANTERBURY

A257 LITTLEBOURNE ROAD, CANTERBURY - closed between the junction with Warwick Road and the St Martin's Hospital Entrance

28 August 2012 - overnight between 8.00 pm until 2.00 am

Alternative route via A257 Littlebourne Road, Canterbury Road, The Hill, High Street, Canterbury Road, B2046 Adisham Road, Old Dover Road, A2 Dover Road, A2050 New Dover Road, A257 Lower Chantry Lane, Longport and St. Martin's Hill.

'PRIEST AND SOW CORNER' TANKERTON, WHITSTABLE

Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road, St Swithin's Road and Tankerton Road - The 4 roads making up the one-way system will be closed in 2 phases, between **17 - 22 October 2012** (excluding the weekend)

When Herne Bay Road and Bennells Avenue are closed, the alternative route is via Tankerton Road and St. Swithin's Road

When St Swithin's Road and Tankerton Road are closed, the alternative route is via Herne Bay Road and Bennells Avenue.

Side roads will be closed at their junctions with the above roads at certain stages, with local diversions in place.

DARTFORD

A206 BOB DUNN WAY, DARTFORD - closed between Joyce Green Roundabout and Marsh Street Roundabout

6 - 25 September 2012 (excluding weekends) - 7.00 pm until 6.00 am

Alternative route via A2026 Burnham Road, Victoria road, Hythe Street, Home Gardens, Overy Liberty, East Hill, A226 The Brent, A226 London Road and A206 Crossways Boulevard.

B260 GREEN STREET GREEN ROAD / MAIN ROAD, LONGFIELD - closed between Canada Farm Road and Station Road

10 - 13 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via B255 Whitehill Road, Westwood Road, B262 Station Road, A2 Watling Street, A296 Princes Road, B260 Green Street Green Road, Trolling Down Hill and Green Street Green Road

HEATH LANE UPPER & HEATH LANE LOWER, DARTFORD closed at their junctions with **B2174 Princes Road** - to allow contra-flow traffic on Princes Road.

12 - 17 September 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative routes

Upper Closure: Heath Lane Upper, Highfield Road South and B2174 Princes Road.

Lower Closure: Heath Lane Lower, Oakfield Lane, A2018 Old Bexley Lane and B2174 Princes Road

DOVER

A256 WHITFIELD / EASTRY BYPASS, EASTRY, DOVER

The Roundabout at the junction with Dover Road and Cater Road will be closed in 2 phases.

24 August and 28 - 30 August 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via A256 Eastry Bypass, Sandwich Road, A258 Deal Road, Sandwich Road, London Road, Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, Deal Castle Road, (Victoria Road and Ranelagh Road in reverse) The Strand, Dover Road, A2 Trunk Road, and A256 Whitfield Bypass.

A256 WHITFIELD BYPASS, TILMANSTONE, DOVER

The Roundabout at the junction with Barville Road and Boys Hill will be closed in 2 phases.

31 August 2012 - 5 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm (excluding the weekend)

Alternative route via A256 Eastry Bypass, Sandwich Road, A258 Deal Road, Sandwich Road, London Road, Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, Deal Castle Road, (Victoria Road and Ranelagh Road in reverse) The Strand, Dover Road, A2 Trunk Road, and A256 Whitfield Bypass.

A256 WHITFIELD HILL, DOVER - closed for its entire length

24 September 2012 - 8 October 2012 (excluding weekends) - 8.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A256 London Road (River), Crabble Hill, Whitfield Avenue, (Brookfield Avenue, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue,

London Road and Bunkers Hill in reverse) Green Lane, Melbourne Avenue, Honeywood Parkway, Honeywood Road.

A256 SANDWICH BYPASS, SANDWICH - North Poulders Roundabout and approaches (Junction with the A257 Sandwich Road / Ash Road) will be closed in phases.

8 - 12 October 2012 - 8.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route for all through traffic via B2046 Adisham Road, A2 Trunk Road, A256 Whitfield By-pass, Eastry By-pass and Sandwich Road.

Roundabout and Sandwich Road approach

Alternative route for local traffic via A257 Sandwich Road, Marshborough Road, Foxborough Hill, Woodnesborough Lane, Poison Cross, Sandwich Road, A256 Sandwich Road and A256 Sandwich Bypass.

Roundabout and The Causeway approach

Alternative route via The Causeway, Strand Street, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, (and Harnet Street in reverse),New Street, Dover Road, Deal Road, A258 Deal Road and A256 Sandwich Bypass.

A256 / B2011 YORK STREET, DOVER (Roundabout only)

The roundabout at the junction between York Street and Folkestone Road will be closed in 2 phases

12 - 15 October 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 8.00 pm until 2.00 am

Alternative routes

Eastern Section: via Priory Road, Ladywell, Park Place, Park Street, Maison Dieu Road, Woolcomber Street, Townwall Street, York Street roundabout and York Street.

Western section: via Folkestone Road, Elms Vale Road, Eaton Road, Astor Avenue, Tower Street, Tower Hamlets Road, Bridge Street, Frith Road, Connaught Road, Castle Hill Road, Woolcoomber Street and Townwall Street.

Worthington Street, Dover - the one way Traffic Order will be reversed between Biggin Street and York Street, during the closure of the eastern half of the roundabout

Biggin Street, Dover - the one way Traffic Order will be suspended between Pencester Road and Edwards Road during the closure of eastern half of the roundabout.

PENCESTER ROAD, DOVER - closed for its entire length

16 - 22 October 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 8.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via Maison Dieu Road, Woolcoomber Street, Townwall Street and York Street.

GRAVESHAM

A226 OVERCLIFFE, NORTHFLEET - closed between St. James's Street and Bath Street.

28 August 2012 - 4 September 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 7.00 pm until midnight

Alternative route via A226 Bath Street, West Street and Thames Way.

A226 SPRINGHEAD ROAD ROUNDABOUT, NORTHFLEET

The roundabout and all approaches to roundabout - A226 Thames Way, A2260 Springhead Road (up to 50 metres from the roundabout)

12 - 17 September 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A2260 Springhead Road, Hall Road, Perry Street, B261 Dover Road, A226 Thames Way and B2175 London Road

B2175 LONDON ROAD, NORTHFLEET - closed between Rural Vale and St Mark's Avenue.

17 - 20 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via A226 Thames Way, B2175 Stonebridge Way and B2175 The Hill.

HALL ROAD ROUNDABOUT, NORTHFLEET - Close roundabout and all approaches to it - A2260 Springhead Road, Hall Road and B262 Hall Road Overbridge will be closed in phases.

20 - 28 September 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 10.30 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A2 Watling Street, A227 Wrotham Road, Coldharbour Road, Perry Street, B261 Dover Road and A226 Thames Way

VALLEY DRIVE, GRAVESEND - closed between Whitehill Lane and Valley Drive Roundabout (Lorry Park Entrance)

27 September - 8 October 2012 (excluding the weekend) - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Hever Court Road, Singlewell Road, B261 Old Road East and Valley Drive

MAIDSTONE

B2163 LOWER STREET, LEEDS - closed between Ashford Road Roundabout and Leeds Road

23 August 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Leeds Road, Sutton Road, Willington Street and Ashford Road.

B2163 PENFOLD HILL, LEEDS - closed between Ashford Road Roundabout and Leeds Road

24 August 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Leeds Road, Sutton Road, Willington Street and Ashford Road.

B2162 HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING - closed from the railway bridge north-eastwards for approximately 100 metres

3 & 4 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Hampstead Lane, Maidstone Road, Boyle Way, Branbridges Road, Beltring Road, Gravelly Ways and Leeds Road.

B2163 HEATH ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA - closed between A274 Sutton Road and A229 Linton Road

4 & 5 September 2012 - 7.00 pm to midnight

Alternative route via Linton Road, Loose Road and Sutton Road.

B2010 SMITHS HILL, MAIDSTONE - closed between Hunt Street and Ewell Lane

5 - 7 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Smiths Hill, Yalding Hill, High Street, Lees Road, Hampstead Lane, Maidstone Road, Bow Road, Tonbridge Road and Teston Lane

B2012 STACEYS STREET, MAIDSTONE - closed at approach to Roundabout

5 - 7 September 2012 - 8.00 pm to midnight

Alternative route via Staceys Street, Chatham Road, Sandling Road and Boxley Road

SEVENOAKS

A224 LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS - closed between Oak Hill Road and The Drive

17 - 20 September 2012 - 9.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A224 London Road, Amherst Hill, London Road, A25 Bradbourne Vale Road, A225 St. John's Hill, Dartford Road, Pembroke Road and A224 London Road.

A224 LONDON ROAD, DUNTON GREEN - closed between A224 Morants Court Road and Barrett's Road

29 - 31 October 2012 - 9.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via A224 London Road, A25 Worships Hill, Main Road, B2211 Chevening Road, Ovenden Road, Sundridge Road and A224 Morants Court Road

SWALE

B2005 GROVEHURST ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE - closed at the approach to Swale Way Roundabout

17 - 20 September 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am

Alternative route via Saffron Way, Mill Way, St. Paul's Street, Staplehurst Road, A249 and Grovehurst Road.

B2205 GROVEHURST ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE - closed between North Street to Newman Drive Roundabout

Sunday 11 November 2012 - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Alternative route via Saffron Way, Mill Way, St. Paul's Street, Staplehurst Road, A249 and Grovehurst Road.

A2 ST. MICHAEL'S ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE - Closed at the East Street roundabout exit into St. Michael's Road

Sunday 18 November 2012 - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Alternative route via East Street and Crown Quay Lane

THANET

B2050 MANSTON ROAD, RAMSGATE - closed from Princess Margaret Avenue to and including Tesco Roundabout

26 - 28 September 2012 - 3 nights, 10.00 pm to 5.00 am

1 - 5 October 2012 - 5 days, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm

Alternative route via High Street, Newington Road, High Street St. Lawrence, Nethercourt Hill, Canterbury Road East and Haine Road.

ROYAL PARADE, LEOPOLD STREET and MADERIA WALK, RAMSGATE

- closed between Queen Street and Albion Place

28th September 2012 - 11th October 2012 8.00 pm until 5.00 am (excluding Fridays and weekends)

Alternative route via Queen Street, West Cliff Road, London Road, Nethercourt Hill, High Street St. Lawrence, Park Road, Boundary Road, Victoria Road and Wellington Crescent.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

A228 HOLBOROUGH ROAD, SNODLAND - closed between Constitution Hill and A228 Snodland By-pass

Monday 29 October to Wednesday 14h November 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am.

Alternative route via Malling Road, A228 Ham Hill Roundabout and A228 Snodland By-pass

MALLING ROAD, SNODLAND - closed between A228 Snodland Bypass and Hollow Lane

Monday 29 October to Wednesday 14 November 2012 - 7.00 pm until 5.00 am.

Alternative route via Malling Road, Holborough Road, A228 Snodland Bypass, Ladds Lane Roundabout, A228 Snodland Bypass and Ham Hill Roundabout.

A228 Snodland By-Pass (Southbound), Snodland - there will be No Right Turn into Holborough Road, Snodland

Alternative route via A228 Snodland By-pass, Ham Hill Roundabout and Malling Road

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

B2100 TOWN HILL, LAMBERHURST - closed between Furnace Lane and The Broadway

20 - 25 September 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.00 pm, between Spray Hill and Pearce Place, then 8.30 am to 5.00 pm once past Pearce Place.

Alternative route via Spray Hill and The Down.

B2017 TUDELEY ROAD (Five Oak Green Road, Tudely Lane) TUNBRIDGE WELLS - closed at the junction with Postern Lane, with no through access between between Somer Hill and Hartlake Road

31 October - 2 November 2012 - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alternative route via Woodgate Way, Pembury Road, Hastings Road, Pembury Northern Bypass, Maidstone Road, Badsell Road and Five Oak Green Road.

A264 MOUNT EPHRAIM, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - closed between Royal Wells Hotel and A26 London Road

2, 5 & 6 November 2012 (NB excluding the weekend) - 7.00 pm until midnight

Alternative route via London Road, Church Road and Mount Ephraim.

A264 CRESCENT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - closed between Calverley Road and Calverley Park

6 & 7 November 2012 - 7.00 pm until midnight

Alternative route via Calverley Road, Monson Road, Mount Pleasant Road and Crescent Road.

CALVERLEY ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS - closed between Calverley Street and Crescent Road

8 & 9 November 2012 - 7.00 pm until midnight

Alternative route via Crescent Road, Mount Pleasant Road and Monson Road.

Garden Street, Tunbridge Wells - the One-way Traffic Order will be suspended for its entire length.

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

A252 MAIDSTONE ROAD, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and lining works and road stud renewal, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A252 Maidstone Road, Chilham, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 8.00 pm and 5.00 am.

The road will be closed to the east of Molash, in the vicinity of Park Wood.

There will be no access for through traffic on the A252 between Challock and Chilham during these works.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The alternative route is via A251 Buck Street, Faversham Road, A2042 Faversham Road, A28 Canterbury Road, Ashford Road and A252 Maidstone Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

GUILDFORD ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Guildford Road, Canterbury, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative routes are via Martyr's Field Road, Heaton Road and Zealand road or via Oxford Road, Lancaster Road, Zealand Road and Heaton Road.

OLD RUTTINGTON LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Ruttington Lane, Canterbury, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with North Holmes Road and Broad Street.

Please note there is no alternative route. There will be some limited access for residents and businesses, but there are likely to be some delays.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSINGS STATION ROAD WEST, NORTH LANE AND ST PETER'S PLACE, CANTERBURY)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, proposes to establish three crossings (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as follows:

STATION ROAD WEST

8 metres north east of the junction with St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury

NORTH LANE

26 metres north east of the junction with St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury

ST PETER'S PLACE

6 metres north east of the junction with Tower Way, Canterbury

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

BELSEY LANE, EWELL MINNIS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Ferne Lane and Greenwich Lane.

The alternative route is via Ferne Lane, Warren Lane and Belsey Lane.

HAWKSDOWN, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawksdown, Walmer, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Dover Road and White Acre Drive.

The alternative route is via Hawksdown, Hawksdown Road (with the agreement of the Residents' Association), Gram's Road and A258 Dover Road.

INGLETON WOOD ROAD, RIVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow works access to phone cables in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ingleton Wood Road, River, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 5 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed to the west (Hougham) side of the junction with Minnis Lane.

The alternative route is via Hogbrook Hill Lane, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham Road (note 11' 6" (3.5 M) height restriction) and Lower Road, plus Lewisham Road, Crabble Road, London Road (River), London Road (Temple Ewell) at the beginning, in reverse.

SANDOWN ROAD, THE QUAY AND KNIGHTRIDER STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in Sandwich, on or after 3 September 2012, as shown below.

SANDOWN ROAD - closed from 3 September for up to 2 weeks, between Grange Cottage and the junction with Manwood Road.

THE QUAY - closed from approximately 17 September for up to 2 weeks, between Quay Cottage and the junction with Knightrider Street

KNIGHTRIDER STREET - closed from approximately 24 September for up to 7 weeks, between the junctions with The Quay and Sandown Road

SANDOWN ROAD - from approximately 5 November 2012 for up to 12 weeks (with an anticipated closedown over Christmas), between the junctions with Knightrider Street and Manwood Road

Only one road will be closed at any one time.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines which may vary subject to weather, ground conditions and the progress of the works. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The alternative route for all phases is via the respective sections of Sandown Road, Knightrider Street, The Quay, High Street, The Chain, Galliard Street, (Harnet Street and The Strand in reverse), New Street and St George's Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

HERON HILL LANE, MEOPHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Essential carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting through traffic on Heron Hill Lane, Meopham, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from David Street to 160 meters west of the juction.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with David Street to 160 meters west of the juction.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BETSHAM ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Betsham Road, Maidstone, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed its whole length.

The alternative route is via Woolley Road.

CARING LANE, THURNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Caring Lane, Thurnham, on or after 20th August 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of A20 Ashford Road and Caring Road.

The alternative route is via Caring Road, Otham Lane, A20 Ashford Road.

CLAPPER LANE, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clapper Lane, Staplehurst, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from outside "Critoph" to "Roston" Farm.

The alternative route is via Marden Road, Station Road, A229 Maidstone Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A249 DETLING HILL/SITTINGBOURNE ROAD AT DETLING/THURNHAM) (TEMPORARY 50MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the northbound carriageway of Detling Hill/Sittingbourne Road between the existing permanent 50mph speed restriction 407 metres north east of its junction with Scragged Oak Road to the Detling Aerodrome Approach Road

The order shall come into operation at times when required as indicated by signage on site on 25th/26th/27th August 2012.

FARLEIGH LANE AND NEW CUT, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to East Farleigh Bridge and a retaining wall, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Farleigh Lane and New Cut, East Farleigh, on or after 24 August 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at East Farleigh Bridge on Farleigh Lane and from The Corner House to Rockwell Farm on New Cut.

The alternative route for Farleigh Lane is via Station Road, B2010 Lower Road, B2163 Teston Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road and for New Cut is via Dean Street, Workhouse Lane, Stockett Lane.

FAVERSHAM ROAD, LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to carry out carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Faversham Road, Lenham, on or after 2 September 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with A20 Ashford Road

The alternative route is via The Street, Ringlestone Road, Hollingbourne Hill, Upper Street, Eythorne Street and Ashford Road.

B2010 LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Road, East Farleigh, on or after 22 August 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic from the junction of Charlton Lane to Gallant Lane.

The alternative route is via Charlton Lane B2163 Ewell Lane/Heath Road and Dean Street.

OAKWOOD ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to resurface the junction and construct a pedestrian island, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Oakwood Road, Maidstone, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 12 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Tonbridge Road.

The alternative route is via A26 Tonbridge Road, Bower Mount Road, Oakwood Road.

PLUM TREE LANE AND HILL GREEN ROAD, STOCKBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plum Tree Lane and Hill Green Road, Stockbury, on or after 3 and 10 September 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic on Plum Tree Lane between the junction of Hill Green Road and West Wood Road and on Hill Green Road between the junction of Yelsted Road and The Street.

The alternative route for Plum Tree Lane is via Hill Green Road, The Street, South Street Road, West Wood Road and for Hill Green Road is via The Street, South Street Road Yelsted Lane.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

FAWKHAM ROAD, FAWKHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to enabling BT safe access for pole replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fawkham Road, Fawkham, on or after 23rd August 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Downland for a distance of 100 metres.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Castle Hill, Fawkham and Main Road, Longfield.

The alternative route is via B260, Ash Road, Ash Lane, A20, Fawkham Road, Brands Hatch Road, Valley Road, Fawkham Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

STAR LANE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road widening and improvements, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Star Lane, Broadstairs, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Manston Court Road and Nash Road.

The alternative route is via Manston Court Road, A256 Haine Road and Nash Road.

STIRLING WAY, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair carriageway potholes, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stirling Way, Ramsgate, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 5 days, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The closure will be in 2 phases, as shown below.

From 20 August 2012 for up to 3 days, the road will be closed between St John's Avenue and Rockstone Way.

From 23 August 2012 for up to 2 days, the road will be closed from Rockstone Way to Newington Road

The alternative route for through traffic is via St John's Avenue, The Centre, Bush Avenue and Newington Road.

The adjoining roads will be closed at their junction with Stirling Way as the works progress, but will remain open from their other junctions.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COMP LANE, PLATT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

Because of a New BT duct installation, Kent County Council intends to make an order an Order prohibiting through traffic on Comp Lane, Platt on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions of Long Mill Lane and Beechin Wood Lane.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

The alternative route is via Beechin Wood Lane and Long Mill Lane.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

BROOMHILL ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Oriel Cottage for 45m towards Speldhurst Road.

The alternative route is via Lower Green Road, Etherington Hill, Speldhurst Road.

FRITTENDEN ROAD, FRITTENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Frittenden Road, Frittenden, on or after 20 August 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from London Lane to East Lodge.

The alternative route is via Cranbrook Road, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Road, A229 Cranbrook Road, Rocks Hill.

WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main over the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whetsted Road, Capel, on or after 3 September 2012 for up to 26 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via B2017 Badsell Road, A228 Maidstone Road, Whetsted Road.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 19th August 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Kings Arms Hotel, Market Square, Westerham**

Applicant: **Audrey Kelly**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Dr Keren Shaw of Ringlemere Oast, Woodnesborough, Sandwich to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT347 (PART) AT HORSMONDEN) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 3 August 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WT347, which commences at NGR TQ 7076 3940 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in an easterly direction for 125.0 metres and then in a south-south-easterly direction for 113.0 metres (totalling 238 metres) to its connection with Brick Kiln Lane (U1743) at NGR TQ 7094 3930 (point B) (between the points A-B on the Order plan); and to provide a new length of public footpath numbered WT347 with a width of 2.0 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in a south-easterly direction for 86.0 metres and then in an east-south-easterly direction for 130.0 metres (totalling 216 metres) to the aforementioned point B (between the points A-B on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 3 August 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 19th August 2012, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **DATED: 19th August 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I Mr Adem Yuksel have applied to the London Borough of Hackney for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as The Lake-Food & Wine, Unit A, Residence Tower, London, N4 2BA as follows: Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises: From 07:00 to 23:00 Daily

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to the Licensing Service, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY by 2nd September 2012.

A copy of the application is kept by the Licensing Service, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application to vary a premises licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I Simo (UK) Ltd have applied to Newham Council to vary a premises licence in respect of the premises known as Ally's Food and Wine Store, 257 High Street, Stratford, London, E15 2LS for:

Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises:

From 08:00 to 00:00 Monday to Sunday

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to Licensing Team, 1st Floor Town Hall Annexe, 330-354 Barking Road, East Ham, London, E6 2RT by 7 September 2012.

A copy of the application is kept by Licensing Team, 1st Floor Town Hall Annexe, 330-354 Barking Road, East Ham, London, E6 2RT. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

Notice of Application for a Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003

Name of applicant: H & K Corporation (London Rd) Ltd.
Address of premises: 3 London Road, Tunbridge Wells. Kent. TN1 1 DQ.

It is prposed to **licence these premises for late night opening**.

Notice is hereby given that H & K Vorporation Ltd has applied to Tunbridge Wells Council for the grant of late night premises licence (refreshment purpose) for our subway where we sell food and soft drinks from 6am till 4am Mon to Sat, and 8 am to 1 am on Sunday. Our premises is equipped with CCTV which records and is available to view up to a month. We do not carry any entertainment which can harm childern. We do not sell any alcohol or allow with our premises.

Representation can be made **in writing** by 07/09/2012.

Please write to the address below
Licensing Partnership, PO Box 182, Sevenoaks, TN13 1GP
E-mail: licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Website: http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing

Full details of the application can be inspected **by appointment** at address above.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

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Bruges & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise

Escorted Rail to River Cruise

4 days all-inclusive

£499pp

Special Offer **£399pp***

*When booked by 25 August

Quote LF2-KOS

4 December, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed cruise, taking-in Bruges, Ghent, Ostend and an array of fabulous Christmas markets. Our floating hotel, the ms Princess - exclusively chartered by Good News Holidays - will deliver us to each town in comfort and style with everything on board included - all drinks from 9am to midnight, breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks and entertainment.

On our journey to join the cruise in Belgium we experience the thrill and convenience of European rail travel. We then cruise effortlessly along peaceful Belgian waterways from town to town, with an overnight stay at each.

Refurbished in 2010, the ms Princess accommodates just 100 guests in comfort and style. There is a cosy lounge-bar and restaurant, all with panoramic views.

Dinner is a real highlight with 4 courses served at your table each night. All cabins are twin berth with private facilities, tv, telephone and heating. All decks - 2 inside and a sundeck - are accessible by stairs or stairlift.

CRUISE ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Morning departure on Eurostar from London St Pancras (or Ebbsfleet on request) to Ostend in Belgium. Board the ms Princess - overnight in Ostend

Day 2 - Early morning departure, enjoy breakfast as we cruise to Bruges arriving around 9am - all day and overnight in Bruges

Day 3 - Early morning sailing to Ghent, enjoy breakfast and lunch on board before arriving early-to-mid afternoon - overnight in Ghent

Day 4 - Morning disembarkation in Ghent returning home by train.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ebbsfleet departures on request)
- 3-night All-Inclusive cruise on the ms Princess
- Main Deck, upgraded outside cabin with private facilities (grade MUL)
- Entertainment on board
- All transfers abroad

ms Princess lounge

ms Princess cabin

ms Princess cabin

Slovenia & Croatia Coast & Country Explorer

Escorted Holiday by Air

8 Days, half board

£759pp

Quote H89-KOS

26 September, 2012

Slovenia must be one of Europe's best kept secrets, from the balmy Adriatic coast to stunning Lake Bled, this former Yugoslavian state surprises and delights new visitors. Neighbouring Croatia is perhaps better known. Here we visit Rovinj - widely regarded as Croatia's most picturesque town, and cruise on the Limska Draga Fjord. We stay 4 nights on Slovenia's coast, then 3 nights at Lake Bled. The journey from the coast to Bled includes a ride on the Bohinj Railway, one of Europe's great rail journeys.

INCLUDED:

- Return British Airways flights Gatwick (13.50 departure) to Venice
- Escorted throughout abroad
- 7 nights half board hotel stay
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad

Hayling Island Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Resort
Hayling Island

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

£159pp

Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill Rythe Resort on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy hearty hospitality, great entertainment, including Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons. We've also got one of our favourite marching bands, the Dagenham Girls Pipers, on the bill. To keep the party mood alive there's a 99p Bar every night.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

Plenty of entertainment at Pontin's Pakefield

Suffolk Coast Bargain Breaks

Pontin's Pakefield
Holiday Village

Self-Drive - 3 or 4 nights

From £89pp

Quote PM-KOS

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts - PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

Date	Nights	Board	Price pp
17, 24 Sept	4	Full Board	£118
21 Sept	3	Full Board	£99
Includes adult-only entertainment venue			
1, 8, 15, 22 Oct	4	Half Board	£89

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights chalet accommodation - Full or half board accommodation as listed
- Entertainment - adult only venue in September

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Women Seeking

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

VICKY 26yr old pretty blonde, athletic, good job, great house/car, single and getting bored, looking for male to entertain me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394459**

I'M Dawn a petite medium built female who enjoys most things looking for fun, love and companionship. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394129**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

JUDY slim blue eyed blonde, 35yrs, great fun, intelligent, educated, N/S, seeks witty guy for gym dates, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393135**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

LORRAINE 32yr old petite attractive female looking for male to turn up the heat on our rather gloomy summer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393119**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

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JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

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LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

NATALIE professional 30's female, no ties, everything a classy blonde should be, looking for special times with male up to 65yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391871**

YOUTHFUL 52yr old female, old fashioned, seeks N/S male, 52-56 to have a talk and laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390771**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

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JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

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SUSAN gorgeous 29yr old lonely Scottish lass new to area and at loose end, seeking reliable caring male up to 40yrs for friendship/more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393465**

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28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

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SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

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AFFECTIONATE fun loving male, 50, good company, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female to share good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393649**

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MALE seeking easygoing female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395157**

CHAS GSOH, looking for friendship, leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395119**

SUSSEX male, 50, attractive, seeks N/S, younger, attractive female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395019**

ANDREW 6ft 4ins, medium build, outdoor type, gardener, GSOH, likes walks, animals, cycling, seeks N/S female to brighten up life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392476**

TED 58, GSOH, likes travel, cooking, gardening, DIY, music, films, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394905**

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. **Tel No:0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567**

MICHAEL dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft 9ins, outgoing, likes cinema, meals out, walks, animals, looking for friendship, romance and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394863**

MALE 55, seeks attractive lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394761**

GARY 30, flirty and fun, interested ladies. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392298**

TONY 57, single, no ties, likes music, art, dancing, theatre, walks, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394371**

PAUL 41, own home, looking for lovely lady, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394367**

JASON 37, 5ft 8ins, short hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes football, body building, cooking, seeks female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394369**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for day time fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

EXPERIENCED fella 55, good fun, seeks lady, 35-55 for exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393797**

MALE 56, seeks adventurous lady, 46-55 for uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393763**

HAPPY go lucky male, 50, GSOH, seeks female for relationship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393739**

STEWART 50, 5ft 11ins, likes dancing, seeking companionship, maybe more with lady 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392178**

BRETT 35, enjoy socialising, cinema, travel, gym, seeking female, 25-35. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393883**

44YR old single man, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, N/S, seeking lady, late 30-40's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392132**

56YR old hot blooded man, seeking female under 50 for exciting thrilling fun to take you to dreamland and beyond. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394153**

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47YR old tall male, GSOH, seeking female for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393071**

YOUNG 60yr old male, OHAC, seeking love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393055**

Gay Seeking

STEWART bisexual, 60's, fit, healthy, seeking fun with male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394841**

46YR old male, slim, tactile, seeks mature, masculine man, 50 plus for fun and good company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394583**

BI-CURIOUS couple, seeking likeminded older couple/male/female, 45 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394345**

33YR old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236**

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STRAIGHT lady, 60, young outlook, seeks single, unattached friends for socialising, travel, theatre, lunch etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392318**

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Table toppers

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THE INTERVIEW

Humphrey Berney

When Blake were up for a tenor

Singer talks to **Joe Bill** about joining a band who have gone on to storm the musical world

THERE are not too many bands who can say they conquered the world within their first five years, but British singing sensations Blake are getting pretty close.

The classical-pop-crossover group, who famously formed with the help of social-networking site Facebook, are due to release their fourth album later this year but have already had success in the Far East and the Americas.

Covering tracks ranging from operatic classics like Nessun Dorma to pop hits such as Chasing Cars by Snow Patrol, Blake have opened up a new swell of fans and continue to grow as a worldwide force.

Among the quartet is Humphrey Berney, who sees the group's gig at The Gulbenkian, Canterbury, in September as a bit of a homecoming.

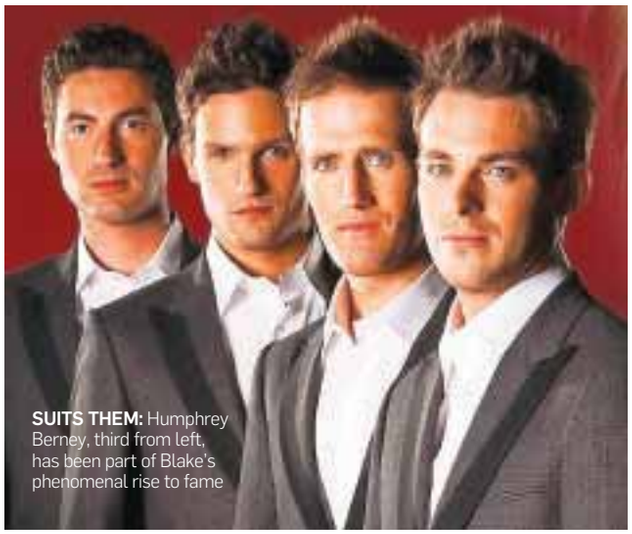
He said: "I was a student at the University of Kent [home of The Gulbenkian] and a music bursar there. I had three great years there and absolutely loved it.

"I have sung in The Gulbenkian many times and did the university opera every year I was studying.

"In my first year I was actually the youngest-ever student to take the lead role in the opera, so I have got some good memories, and I worked a lot with Susan Wanless, the director of music there."

Berney's activities in Kent doubled as valuable lessons ahead of his career in music.

The 30-year-old tenor said: "Socially, Kent was great fun. I studied theatre and film because I wanted something arts-related but not to necessarily study music as a degree. I did loads of music on the side, and it set me up really well. I got loads of great stage experience, as well as conducting, before going on to the Royal Academy and then into the professional world of music. Kent was a great platform because I could enjoy my music and not have to do it academically every day."



SUITS THEM: Humphrey Berney, third from left, has been part of Blake's phenomenal rise to fame

Blake formed in 2007 after the original four members – Ollie Baines, Stephen Bowman, Jules Knight and Dominic Tighe – came together through an advert on Facebook. But after Tighe announced his departure from the band in 2009, it was time to hunt for a new tenor... Berney fitted the bill, although there was a little help from social media once again.

"I joined two years in. It was a mixture of elements how I got involved. It was partly through Twitter, where I saw an advert to join the band, but also because I knew a producer who worked on the group's first album, Blake.

"So when I got in touch with them and said I was interested, they spoke to this producer and he explained he had worked with me.

"I then had to go for some singing auditions with their director of music and obviously go and meet the boys to see if we'd get on.

"There was three days of meeting the guys, singing together and discussing the set-up. Three weeks later, I was on stage doing a UK tour with them, so it was all pretty quick."

As with the rest of the group, Berney has deep roots in classical music, but his musical influences are varied.

"From a very young age I was at a school where choirs were very strongly encouraged, so I grew up from the age of seven singing as a chorister, singing church music and that sort of stuff.

"And then through my teens, I was always singing classical stuff, but I grew up listening to Dire Straits – my parents were always playing them in the house – and The Rolling Stones and Shakin' Stevens, Bob Marley and all the stuff around at the time.

"The music I like to listen to now is incredibly varied – that meant I loved singing not just classical stuff but musical theatre, bits of big bands. It's that variety of singing that makes me enjoy Blake so much."

And Blake's variety has appealed to a number of high-profile music buffs, bagging them a spot on the soundtrack to the Angels & Demons movie starring Tom Hanks and Ewan McGregor.

"We have done some really different stuff. I love singing Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah – we do a cappella version of that. It's such a beautiful, simple song. It always gets a great reaction from the crowd.

"That is what we specialise in, taking four voices in harmony and covering a really eclectic mix of music – everything from classics to pop."

However, Blake's next album is going to be completely different as the group are set to announce a number of their own songs.

Berney is delighted by the prospect: "We have a new album, Start Over, coming out in September and I should think 70 per cent of that will be completely original material, which is a new thing for us. We have always done original covers, but this is an original album, which is exciting.

"We are also recording with some legendary artists, but I can't say who they are at the moment."

The group have already begun to conquer the Asian market with their distinctive style of cover songs and their recent appearance on Chinese TV will have helped no end, with more than 350 million viewers reported to have tuned in.

"It was kind of surreal. It was the equivalent of the Chinese Oscars, the Chinese International Film Festival.

"We've done some big performances, like Wembley and Twickenham, but knowing that looking down the camera there were so many viewers was crazy. The trick is to try and not think about it because it would be very intimidating."

The group return to China for a tour in July and have also performed in the Philippines with great success.

"Culturally, it is such a different world, and I think they are fascinated by us four quintessentially English blokes, so it's a very exciting land.

"We are a very British group and very proud of that and I think it is having that very British identity that appeals to a lot of people abroad.

"I think at the moment we are one of the busiest international touring British groups."

With so much completed and so many boxes ticked off already, it is difficult to imagine where Blake can go from here.

Berney sets us straight: "Well, the China adventure is just starting, and there are 1.8 billion of them, so there is still quite a big challenge ahead."

• Blake play The Gulbenkian, Canterbury, on Friday, September 21, at 7.30pm.

• Tickets, priced at £24, are aavailable from the box office on 01227 769075. You can also visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian for more details.

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Younger sister is confident but more zing would let her sing

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

I can't tell if it is a good or a bad thing that The Granville, just south of Canterbury, is associated with its impeccable, Michelin Star-clad sister pub The Sportsman just a few miles away at Seasalter.

Every restaurant should be judged on its own merits, but I can't help thinking that this eatery in Lower Hardres, run by the same people as those who brought The Sportsman to fame, could forever live in its big sister's shadow, or indeed be dragged along on its culinary crest, even if it doesn't deserve to be.

The Granville is a picturesque pub with a modern interior, an open restaurant and a bar area. The atmosphere is good and the way they do things is different – and I like it.

You order drinks at the bar and take a few sips while mulling over the chalkboard featuring the evening's starters and main courses. Order and then head to your seats.

Homemade sliced foccacia bread, butter and sesame seeds were brought to the table shortly before my guest's choice of oriental pork salad (£7.50) arrived, along with my four rock oysters with shallot vinegar (£1.40 each).

The oysters were beautiful and fresh, as you would expect of a restaurant with close links to the seaside vendors. They tasted clean and cool, served perfectly with no shell remnants.

My guest let me try some of her salad, which included thinly-sliced carrots, lettuce, cress and a delightful dressing. We agreed it was a fine dish. You know it was enjoyed when your other half says she wants to make it at home one day.

Our main course was out promptly, heralding my chicken tagine with tzatziki (£12.95), served with green beans and new potatoes. The sauce was tasty and the portion a good size, but I was disappointed by the presentation and the potatoes were a little dry.

It was strange that the tagine came out on a regular plate. I know this is a pub and not a Morrocan restaurant, but I thought it lacked a bit of zing and was clumsy.

My guest had the tagliatelle with ricotta, peas and mint (£9.95). She enjoyed it but was not as enthused as she had been by her starter.

The service was good for most of the evening, although we were left to wait between mains and desserts for almost half an hour. The staff on service did, in fairness, apologise and gave us a drink on the house, which was a nice gesture.

To finish, I went with flourless chocolate cake with whiskey and dark chocolate ice-cream, raspberry sauce and fresh raspberries at £5.95.

The sharp whiskey flavour complemented the deep chocolate pudding excellently and the fresh fruity taste was a bonus. My partner went for the vanilla crème brûlée with brandy chocolate truffles at £5.95. All fine.

The Granville offers good pub food at a good price: £65 for two, with drinks. Its menu is not ambitious, but it knows what it's about.

Joe Bill

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Giving locally-sourced an all-new meaning

JUST yards from Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve, The Grove Ferry Inn provides the perfect location to take locally-sourced ingredients to a new level.

James Fraser, one of the pub's kitchen team, has created a three-course meal with canapés using items that he and the team have grown, foraged and hunted themselves.

A day in the woods, for example, saw the keen forager come back with mushrooms, edible flowers and berries for a delicious jelly dessert.

James and Aron, the pub's landlord, also visit the Reculver coast to source razor clams and seaweed and fish for bass.

Café culture in the city continues at Browns

CANTERBURY has seen a number of new establishments in recent months that show the appetite for alfresco dining is growing.

One of those recent arrivals is Browns, an independent coffee house in Water Lane.

The business opens daily and serves a range of coffees both in-house and by the bag, as well as confectionary and some pastries.

"We work with local producers to offer a regularly-changing menu of baked goods and homemade cakes. Our coffee is ethically sourced with full traceability and we try to be environmentally friendly in all we do," said a Browns represenative.

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Celebrate with those closest to your heart

SUMMER provides the perfect opportunity for families to get together and celebrate the good weather, the long days and the excellent food.

Many of Kent's finest ingredients are at their best in the summer months, with the ripe fruits and fully-grown vegetables providing a tasty backdrop to the joy. And dining together with your loved ones is the best way to celebrate the Kentish bounty.

With the array of foods and eateries available in Kent, it doesn't matter if meeting up with your clan is a regular occurrence or just a one-off thing... there is something here for every occasion.

It may be that you are looking to treat your mum and dad, or a favourite aunt and uncle, or even the whole extended family, but one thing is for sure: there are stunning selections and delicious dishes to be found in restaurants across Kent's landscape and along our waterfronts.

This week we feature restaurants that have a special welcome for family groups, including, of course, children.

Some have menus specially prepared for younger members of the party, while all offer the warm welcome that means so much to family groups.

The county's restaurants pride themselves on offering the very best of local produce, so what could be better than sitting with your nearest and dearest sampling the food and drink produced in the countryside around you?

The summer is particularly splendid for alfresco dining – something children love. Here is a selection of venues that are very much for all the family.

Jalsha
Sidcup

Why here...
A fully licensed, air-conditioned tandoori restaurant, open every day for lunch and dinner.
Don't miss the free Elvis and Tom Jones tribute act on Tuesday, September 4.

On the menu...
For starters, try the medley kebab with lamb and chicken tikka plus shish kebab. A popular main from the menu is the lamb-chop achari, with the favourite chocolate mousse for dessert.

How to book...
Jalsha, 169-171 Station Road, Sidcup DA15 7AA
phone: 020 83000777/ 020 83002527

The Red Lion
Bridge

Why here...
The restaurant offers contemporary modern cuisine with a French flair, using local vegetables and eggs from its own organic poultry. This is a very family-friendly, local pub with a good atmosphere.

On the menu...
Grilled garlic shellfish plate with razor clams, king prawns and pulade clams (£5.50).
Fillet of beef with peppercorn sauce, chips and herb-crusted field mushroom (£20.95).
Apple-cinnamon strudel (£5.25).

How to book...
The Red Lion, 75 High Street Bridge CT4 5LB; phone: 01227 832213; email: rene@redlionbridge.co.uk

Elvey Farm
Pluckley

Why here...
As you turn down the winding lane that leads through open fields to Elvey Farm, you realise this is somewhere special. It's a medieval farmstead, a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn. Pictures of Kentish views and oast houses line the walls, alongside Tudor beams – a perfect backdrop for lunch, an evening meal or English afternoon tea, washed down by a glass of local wine from Biddenden or Chapel Down.

On the menu...
Elvey Farm celebrates everything Kentish. Lamb comes from the sheep in the next field, fruit and veg from local farms. Head chef Simon Maynard lets his imagination run riot with the seasons, coming up with new dishes that celebrate the surrounding countryside.

How to book...
Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU
phone: 01233 840442
web: www.elveyfarm.co.uk

Black Horse
Monks Horton

Why here...
A family-run pub in the picturesque hamlet of Monks Horton that has recently been taken over and refurbished. It has an extensive beer garden with an enclosed children's play area.

On the menu...
A variety of tasty dishes, with something to suit everyone. All steaks are English and hung for at least 23 days. All produce is as locally-sourced as possible and dietary requirements can be met.

How to book...
Black Horse, Fiddling Lane Monks Horton TN25 6AP
phone 01303 812182
www.thebestpubintheparish.com

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernehill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.
The à la carte menu has a selection for all tastes, many meals costing under £10.
The pub is open every day during the summer, offering locally-sourced food and a great atmosphere. A beer garden and children's area are available.

On the menu...
Why not bring the family for the popular Sunday lunch, when you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 or three courses for £15.50?
Choose from a selection of meats including pork, lamb and beef, served with all the trimmings.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Everest Inn
Ashford

Why here...
Specialist Nepalese and Indian, with quality dishes and exceptional service. Voted best restaurant in Ashford 2012 by Trip Advisor and Best Nepalese restaurant UK by Asian Curry Awards 2011.

On the menu...
The best in Nepalese and Indian cuisine, with modern twists on traditional methods. Chefs regularly refine and develop recipes to the highest standards. Take-away with free delivery is available.

How to book...
113 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PJ; phone: 01233 643643; email: ashford@everestinn.co.uk; website: www.everestinn.co.uk

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Good enough for you?

Indie night with Dodgy

The Royal Function Rooms, Rochester
Friday, October 12
Tickets £12
www.thepreservationsocietypresents.com

TOP 90s indie-rockers Dodgy have become the next band to announce an intimate gig in Medway through local music promoter Preservation Society Presents.

Known for their hits like Staying Out For The Summer and Good Enough, which reached No 4 in the charts during the height of the Britpop era.

The trio of Nigel Clark, Mathew Priest and Andrew Miller formed in 1990 in Hounslow, London, and have remained as Dodgy for the past 22 years, releasing Stand Upright In A Cool Place, their first album for a decade, in 2012.

The group will play the intimate 200-person gig at The Royal Function Rooms on Star Hill in Rochester on Friday, October 12.

It's a puzzle...

This challenge is a lot of fun

Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge
Open until September
www.penshurstplace.com

FOR the first time, Penshurst Place will this year have a maze attraction for visitors to enjoy during the school summer holidays.

But get this – the maze is made out of, well, maize. And it's sure to provide hours of eco-fun for the family.

The new attraction has been designed by Mazescape and will be open at Penshurst until mid-September, depending, as ever, on the Great British weather conditions.

The maze will be free to visit for full-paying garden-ticket-holders and Penshurst Place season-ticket-holders.

For voucher and other card-holders there will be a small extra charge of £2 per adult, £1 per child, per visit to take on the winding, life-size puzzle.

Salute the 40s

Nostalgia and fine fashion

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Sat and Sun, September 15-16
01643 823 800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THERE will be a wealth of nostalgia to soak up as The Historic Dockyard Chatham puts on its Salute To The 40s next month.

Vintage fashion will be a theme and visitors are encouraged to come suitably attired and join a Parade Of Forties Fashion each day.

Alternatively, visitors can buy clothing and get their hair and make-up done at one of the vintage traders' stands once they are here.

Some of the best 1940s performers in the business will keep families entertained with singing, dancing and wartime humour.

There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to join in or just watch and enjoy as they take in the atmosphere.

Eat, drink and take a ride

Beer festival

Station Road, Shepherdswell
Sat to Mon, August 25-27
Tickets £10
www.eastkentrailway.co.uk

DURING the August bank-holiday weekend the East Kent Railway group is holding its fourth annual Ale And Cider Festival.

Open from 11am to 6pm each day, railway fans will be able to hop on board a train from Shepherdswell to Eythorne station for a drink and celebration.

Revellers will be transported to the real-ale bar, real-cider bar and food tent.

The bar will feature 12 types of real ale and there will be a taste-off between Kent and Lancashire, with the local real ales being represented by Gadd's, The Ramsgate Brewery, and Wanstum Brewery in Canterbury.

There will also be music, games and quizzes.

The £10 ticket price includes the train travel and a pint.

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Fright night with Dickens

The Haunting

The Churchill, Bromley
Mon to Sat, August 20-25
0844 8717620
atgtickets.com/bromley

CHARLES Dickens's The Haunting takes centre stage at The Churchill next week.

Featuring David Robb (Dr Clarkson in Downton Abbey) and James Roache (Coronation Street and Cold Feet), this scary play will be the perfect way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth.

The Haunting tells the story of young book-dealer, David Filde (Roache), who is employed by a family friend to catalogue an impressive library of rare and antiquated books in a crumbling mansion.

A series of strange and unexplained events conspire to keep Filde from his work, leading him to convince his sceptical employer that the phenomena he is experiencing are real. Or are they?

Tickets are priced between £15 and £29.50.

Reggae's own poet of love

Lester Clayton

Club Mojo, The Command House, Chatham
Sunday, September 9
facebook.com/xxartmusic

PART political activist and part love-poet, Tottenham-born Lester Clayton will play at Club Mojo at The Command House next month.

Clayton has a songwriting wit that has been gaining fans and winning over audiences since touring the UK as support for Brit Award-winner Ed Sheeran.

His reggae-infused brand of 'street folk' with fiddle hooks and groove bass is fresh and infectious.

Clayton has already supported the likes of Ed Sheeran, Junior Marvin (former Bob Marley and The Wailers Guitarist), Just Jack and Libertines frontman Pete Doherty.

Tickets are priced at £5 and available on the door.

King of Cool Britannia?

The Kinks' Ray Davies

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Sunday, September 30
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

FRESH from his dynamic appearance at the Olympic closing ceremony in London, one of British rock's most iconic figures is heading to The Marlowe Theatre.

The man who will really get you going, Ray Davies, has announced he will be playing the Canterbury venue as part of his solo tour.

Famous for songs such as Lola, Waterloo Sunset and Sunny Afternoon, the group's mod style meant that The Kinks were at the forefront of British pop in the Sixties and cited as an influence by several bands of the Cool Britannia era in the 1990s.

Davies is sure to have the fans dancing all of the day and all of the night.

The truths of a civilisation

Ancient Egypt

St Faith's Street, Maidstone
Open until Mon, September 3
01622 602 838
maidstone.museum.gov.uk

SECRET Egypt, Unravelling Truth From Myth, has opened at Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery in the newly-regenerated St Faith's Street site.

Inside the museum are some fantastic artefacts dating back to the time of pyramids and pharaohs that will inspire history fans.

Undoubtedly the star of the collection is the Daughter of Osiris, Pa-Muta – a 2,700-year-old mummy brought to England in the 1820s and now residing in Maidstone.

The exhibition aims to separate the truth from the myths that have surrounded the ancient Egyptian culture, looking at curses and how the Egyptians were obsessed with death and the afterlife.

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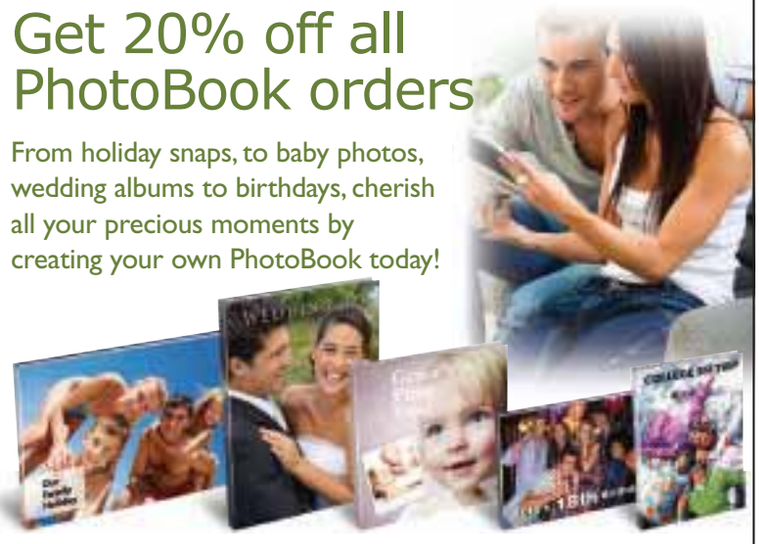

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Shack attack
Weathergirl lends a hand

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells
Sat and Sun, September 8-9
www.shackattack.org.uk

FORMER BBC weather presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston is helping to build a shanty town in Tunbridge Wells.

International housing charity Habitat For Humanity will bring its annual 24-hour Shack Attack to Calverley Grounds next month to highlight the way that millions of people around the world have to live.

Kaddy said: "They have chosen Tunbridge Wells this year to get volunteers together to bring along items that they can build a shack out of.

"It is a fun way of raising awareness of what the charity do and also showing what people around the globe are having to deal with."

Teams will build their shacks out of raw materials and stay in them overnight.

Catch the oast with the most
Hops and rock

Kent Life, Maidstone
Sat and Sun, September 8-9
01622 763936
www.kentlife.org.uk

THE Kent Life site is gearing up for its 26th Hops'n'Harvest Festival next month.

Thousands are expected to head to to the Maidstone venue and rock to live music.

Beer-lovers can sample 60 varieties of rare and not-so-rare real ales and ciders, including Kent Life's sought-after Cobtree Old Ale, brewed using its own hops.

Festival-goers can explore the traditions of the festival and have a go at picking hops.

They will be able to see the last working coal-fired oast house in Britain, which will be back in full production for the weekend as well as meet Pearly Kings and Queens and characters from Kent's past.

Headlining weekend's live music are Van Susans and Funke And The Two Tone Baby.

Ready the cannon...
The Bodiam Mortar

Bodiam Castle
Every weekend until Sunday, September 2
01580 830196
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiamcastle

HEAD to Bodiam Castle to see the firing of the Bodiam Mortar every weekend day until September.

For the first time in almost 600 years, the cannon will be fired from the castle at 1.30pm, historical experts having painstakingly built a replica of the original, which was found in the castle moat

Legend suggests that the original weapon was used in the Battle of Crecy. It was used for firing heavy stone balls at enemy buildings, mostly during sieges.

The replica can now be seen throughout the summer alongside the trebuchet.

Club classics
Bank on a top holiday party

Banks Bar, Maidstone
Sunday, August 26
Tickets £15
www.wegottickets.com

BANKS Bar in Maidstone will welcome the Kiss FM roadshow to the venue for a party during the August bank holiday.

One of the UK's biggest radio stations is taking over the outdoor terrace with a line-up of DJs set to ensure a scorching afternoon of dance music, garage and the biggest club-classic tunes.

Just some of the names featured will be DJ EZ, Justin Wilkes from Kisstory, Melvin and AJ King from Back 2 Black and resident DJ Nathan Martin.

There will be eight hours of entertainment, live music and dancing, with the venue staying lively from 4pm on Sunday until midnight.

Tickets, at £15, are available from Banks Bar or online.

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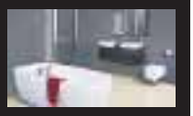

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Homes & Gardens

Make the most of the fleeting sunshine

A SUMMER full of national celebration, including the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee, has put the garden centre-stage, with homeowners desperate to make the most of any sunny spells.

But unpredictable weather can make a project deadline even tighter, so it's essential to choose a merchant that delivers an efficient and reliable service.

The great British summer with its elusive UK sunshine is always cause for celebration, but this year has been unique.

With the Olympics encouraging everyone to enjoy the outdoors and be active, there has never been a better time for homeowners to invest in a landscaping project.

Many gardens suffer from plain borders, uninspiring patios or tired-looking lawns. With inspiration, these can be easily updated to create a multifunctional space, perfect for socialising with friends and family.

Why not add a new decking area or patio to create an eye-catching alfresco dining space? Perfect to enjoy lunch on a sunny afternoon.

Designer Travis Perkins says adding an element of personal flair is important to any professional landscaper.

From stylish, ethically-sourced stone, through to sustainable and functional decking in a variety of styles and patterns, there's a huge choice of environmentally-friendly products on the market to suit modest and ambitious projects alike.

With everyone inspired to get outdoors and be active, boundary walls are likely to be particularly important for privacy and noise reduction. What's more, a brick, stone, or timber wall can revitalise a space, creating distinct and flexible areas for entertaining or relaxing

It's often the finishing touches that really bring an outdoor space to life. With an extensive product portfolio, homeowners can choose a space-saving shed to clear away any clutter and to provide all-year shelter for that all-important barbecue.

Gazebos are the perfect party accessory and provide vital protection from the temperamental UK weather.

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Homes & Gardens

BRIGHT FUTURE: Above, from left... hollyhocks; Rudbeckia Gloriosa Mix; Allium *Hollandicum aflatunense*; and Crocosmia 'Lucifer'

It's time for us all to start

LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT

WHAT a bountiful time of year. But what to do with all these things ready to harvest?

It would be a waste not to have a go at making some jam or chutney or doing a bit of pickling. But if you don't have the time or it's too overwhelming to try to make everything now, you can always flat-freeze the fruit or veg (by laying in a single layer on a baking sheet so they are not touching; popping in the freezer; then, once frozen, bagging them up so they do not stick together). Then, when you have a minute, you can make a batch of your preserve.

A favourite in our house that is ready to enjoy at Christmas with cold meats or cheeses is Delia Smith's spiced damson/plum chutney, available on her website.

My husband, Terry, does moan about going to work smelling of vinegar for days, but it's definitely worth it. We also tried making sloe gin for the first time last year, which went down a treat. We pierced each sloe individually, but someone suggested freezing them, and then they don't require pricking – what a timesaver!

I know the colder months will soon be upon us, but let's not dwell on that fact just yet – instead, let's think about making a colour splash next spring by planting some spring-flowering bulbs and corms. They are maintenance-free and come up year after year – that's definitely the sort of garden display I like.

The only trouble you will have is deciding which ones to choose, so why not try a selection of the following for months of glorious colour?

Tulips For a vibrant display in April to May, try mixing a bright orange with an almost black tulip such as Annie Schilder and Havran; or, for a classy white display with tones of silver and green, try a white garden mix 'Purissima' and Exotic Emperor.

Allium Coming up in May and June, these are incredibly long-lived and flower for ages – try *Hollandicum aflatunense*, beautiful smoky-mauve flowers that bulk up quickly to form spectacular

picking, preserving and preparing

drifts through the garden. Also try *cristophii* for their huge seed heads.

Anemones These appear from April to June – corms are best grown in a sunny spot as they are fully hardy. Try Anemone De Caen Mixed for a jamboree of colour.

Fritillaries From April to May, these have some of the most exquisite and exotic bulbs. The snakeshead fritillary looks vibrant at the front of the border or naturalised in grass – happier on heavy soils than dry but still surprisingly easy to grow – try plum and white *Fritillaria meleagris*.

Crocus In February and March, these are often the first flowers in the garden and what a welcome site they are – try the unusual bicoloured *chrysanthus* 'Advance' for unusual yellow and purple together on one plant.

Convallaria Lily of the Valley May sees this delicate, scented native wild flower that will thrive in dry or damp shade and spread slowly.

Gladiolus These are May to July blooms – if you can't quite accept the blowsy glads I have pictured, go for *chrysanthus* 'Advance' for a more reserved choice but equally as glorious – it is grown in Med olive groves but equally at home in our borders and grass here in England.

Hyacinths In March and April you can't beat them for scent and exceptional vase life – try Spring Field for an incredible deep indigo-blue.

Iris April and May sees these appear – try planting lettuce seedlings between your blue and purple Eye of the Tiger Iris for a double harvest from a small area.

Narcissi Arriving in March and April, these are

Continued on page 65

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Lucy's jobs to keep us busy

Continued from page 63

super-tolerant of any site and situation and clump-forming to create a bigger, better display every year. There has to be room for a few – try a scented mix of early-flowering Avalanche, perfect ivory-coloured, multi-headed Silver Chimes and pretty and fragrant Geraniums for a long display.

Jobs to do

• *Divide and replant herbaceous perennials* This will invigorate them and improve flowering and overall shape for next year. Although I am advising you to do this now, it can wait until spring, when there is less to trample on in the borders. So I'll leave it up to you to decide. I will give more details on how to divide in spring.

• *Move Pelargoniums into a greenhouse* In warmer areas it shouldn't be necessary to lift dahlia tubers. You can leave them in the ground but instead cover the crowns with a protective layer of straw or bracken to protect them from the frosts.

• *Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals*

• *Net ponds before leaf-fall gets under way*

• *Sow sweet peas in a cold frame or greenhouse for early summer blooms next year*

• *Order mature or large plants and trees now for planting in October*

In the fruit and veg patch

• *At the end of the month, cut down asparagus foliage*

• *Dig up last potatoes before slug damage*

• *Clear out cold frames and greenhouses so they are ready for use in autumn*

• *Remove yellowing leaves and any blown sprouts from Brussels sprouts.*

• *Earth up kale (until November)*

• *Cover watercress, land cress and lettuce with cloches from mid-September*

• *Store marrow, pumpkin and squash*

• *Sow winter lettuces like Arctic King and winter hardy spring onions like White Lisbon*

• *Plant out spring cabbage*... or pigeon food, as I like to call it. However, this year Terry has rigged me up quite a nifty pigeon defence, so I am hoping we will actually get a cabbage or two instead of just feeding the pigeons and, of course, the cabbage white butterflies. Also plant out the over-wintering (Japanese) onion sets and garlic that you ordered last month (note to self: must start doing what I tell everyone else to do).

• *Harvest*... aubergines, chillis, beetroot, lettuce, tomatoes, radishes, cabbage, carrots, cauliflowers, French and runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers, globe artichokes, kale, kohlrabi, peas, main-crop potatoes, leeks, marrows, onions and spring onions, pumpkins, turnips, spinach, sweetcorn, apples, pears, plums, peaches, blackberries, autumn raspberries and strawberries... Phew! Just about everything, really.

Enjoy the autumn colours, especially for me the Rudbeckias. They punch colour, can be cut, last several years and reseed fairly easily.

I've got Gloriosa mix for some old-fashioned favourites. Another favourite of mine, as I'm a big fan of red, is Crocosmia 'Lucifer' – a deciduous cormous clump-forming perennial with erect, sword-shape leaves. The individual blooms are not as big as other crocosmias, but this small-flowered variety is one of the hardiest, which makes it a wise choice.

ALL ACTION: Glads, left, are a love-or-hate thing, while the defences against pigeons are in position

Lastly, I had to share with you the beautiful bunch of glads I brought this week. Love them or hate them, they, like tulips, make perfect long-lasting cut flowers. Give them a try – but, unlike tulips, you plant corms in the spring.

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Downsize and enjoy modern living, too

RESEARCH from property website Rightmove reveals downsizers are driving the property market, with "trading down from a large family house" now the single biggest reason for selling. Some 40 per cent of sellers say they are looking to trade down, compared with 25 per cent who hope to trade up to a larger, pricier property.

This growing trend is certainly evident in the historic city of Canterbury. Kingsbrook Park, a collection of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and three- and four-bedroom townhouses close to the city centre, is attracting a wide range of buyers, from first-time buyers to couples and young families alike.

With riverside views and landscaped lawns, Kingsbrook Park residents can enjoy culture and entertainment on their doorstep, with the benefits of the coast nearby and good transport links.

The apartments on the riverside development are proving particularly popular with house-owners keen to trade down to a smaller property, and to date more than 40 per cent of the current phase has been bought by downsizers.

Tina Dedman, sales and marketing director for Berkeley (Eastern Counties), said: "The apartments at Kingsbrook Park appeal to downsizers as they offer the benefits of lower-maintenance accommodation laid out across one floor without the need to compromise on space. The apartments all feature large master bedrooms, most with en-suite shower rooms, and individually-designed open-plan kitchen/dining/living rooms.

"In addition to a spacious layout and a high-specification finish, the properties also provide private balconies or terraces, many benefiting from breathtaking views of the River Stour and Canterbury Cathedral."

QUALITY: Downsizing means a reduction in size but not in style

Ultimately, lower maintenance and running costs are advantages of all new-build homes – not just benefits that come with downsizing: Kings Court, a new phase of contemporary three- and four-bedroom houses launching at Kingsbrook Park, offers just that.

Each property in the Kings Court phase is beautifully designed and characterised by a high-specification finish. The exteriors are intended to complement the riverside setting and incorporate a modern interpretation of Kentish architecture.

Dedman said: "There is a high demand for new-build properties in Canterbury that offer spacious, well-designed accommodation with good transport links. While some of the properties are available for occupation now, we also anticipate that the trend for buyers reserving properties off-plan at Kingsbrook Park will continue with this new phase, too."

The living accommodation for the Kings Court houses is spread over three floors, with well-laid-out rooms and interiors that are designed to maximise space and light. The open-plan living accommodation divides into zones for relaxing, cooking, dining or entertaining. With another living room on the first floor, it enables families to have a family space on the ground floor and a more formal adult living room upstairs.

Excellent storage facilities are provided throughout each of the houses, with a large under-stairs cupboard downstairs and an additional linen closet on the landing. Upstairs, the master bedrooms have built-in wardrobes.

The Kings Court houses and apartments are designed to a high specification and with a great attention to detail.

Each home is equipped with a fully-fitted, individually-designed kitchen, complete with integrated appliances, a stainless-steel hob and extractor hood. The bathrooms and en-suites are stylishly fitted with white Villeroy & Boch sanitaryware and elegant chrome fittings and offer hotel-style luxuries such as heated towel rails, glass screens and ceramic tiling.

One-, two- and three-bedroom apartments are available at Kingsbrook Park from £164,950. The new houses at Kings Court are priced from £324,950. For further information, you can visit www.kingsbrookpark.co.uk or phone 01227 477100.

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Clubcard points offer on Tesco mortgages

TESCO has started selling home loans with plenty of Clubcard points on offer – regular customers are the major target group.

"The rates are reasonably priced, if not market-leading," said David Hollingsworth, of the broker London & Country.

He said the most impressive of the deals on offer was a two-year fixed rate at 3.19 per cent for those with a 30 per cent deposit, but Tesco's five-year fix at 3.89 per cent is considerably more expensive than Nationwide's 3.39 per cent offering.

"We're trying to satisfy customer needs by offering good value," said David McCreadie, banking chief at Tesco.

The bank has 6.5 million savings, loan and credit-card customers, and it is these who are likely to be attracted to the new mortgage offers.

Clubcard users will be given one point for every £4 on their monthly mortgage repayments.

That means anyone repaying £750 a month on a Tesco mortgage could gain £22 cash a year.

Property market remains flat as lending scheme fails to stir sales

HOUSE prices fell by 0.6 per cent last month, wiping out much of the 0.8 per cent increase recorded in June, according to mortgage lender Halifax.

The bank's analysis of the state of the UK housing market echoes that of rival lender Nationwide, which reported a 0.7 per cent fall in July. However, while Nationwide put the annual decline at 2.6 per cent, Halifax said it was just 0.6 per cent.

The three-month change, which is regarded as a more accurate indicator of the state of the housing market, showed prices remained flat.

Halifax now puts the average value of a UK home at £161,094 – about the same as in the summer of 2009. The bank's housing economist, Martin Ellis, said the stability in prices was a result of a lack of activity in the market.

According to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the ratio of house sales to unsold properties has changed very little over the past 21 months.

Ellis said: "Looking forward, we expect little change in prices over the remainder of 2012, so long as the economic climate in the UK does not worsen substantially."

Howard Archer, chief UK economist at IHS Global Insight, said the latest round of price data heightened his belief that the market would fall further over the remainder of 2012 – a gloomy prediction that has caused concern across the market.

Archer said: "With the economy slumping in the second quarter, and the outlook highly uncertain amid worryingly strong domestic and international headwinds, we believe there is a very real and mounting danger that house prices could fall by appreciably more than 3 per cent from current levels."

Recent figures from mortgage lenders show that approvals for new loans fell to an 18-month low in June and, at 44,192, are running at about half of the average monthly level seen since 1993.

The Government's new funding-for-lending scheme is designed to boost mortgage lending and boost the housing market, but so far it has not had an impact.

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By Steve Loader
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How green?: ★★
Best rival: VW Golf GTD

Vauxhall spruces and powers up an already-popular model

TIME waits for no car, so Vauxhall's sleek Astra has had a midlife makeover despite being a regular in the UK top-10 best-sellers list.

Apart from nips and tucks, the car also has an exciting new engine option and extra trim level, Tech Line, to attract company-car user-choosers.

The new look concentrates on UK-built five-door hatch and Sports Tourer (estate) variants, which have a bold yet cleaner new front end through changes to the grille, indicator lamps and fog lamps (where fitted).

The rear ends also have new detailing and more chrome, but Vauxhall has pegged prices despite the upgrade.

Both these versions are also available in Tech Line, a new option being rolled out across Vauxhall models popular with the company-car sector and designed to deliver high spec but attract low taxation and running costs.

Standard kit includes all the staples needed by those who commute or work from their car: sat-nav with big seven-inch screen; aux/USB/SD slots with iPod control, so all data and sounds needs are covered; DAB digital radio plus seven premium speakers; audio controls on the steering wheel; air-con; and cruise control.

To ensure the driver also cuts a dash in the corporate car park, Tech Line models come with smart 17-inch 10-spoke alloys.

Most of the 10 engine options also wear Vauxhall's fuel- and emissions-saving Ecoflex sub-branding to contribute to low running costs and tax efficiencies without curtailing enjoyment of the driver-pleasing chassis.

For those who want extra performance, though, there is a hot new diesel version of the three-door Astra coupe, or GTC, as Vauxhall prefers to call it.

The GTC is a stunning-looking car anyway with its own distinctive appearance alongside its five-door and estate sisters, with a clever reverse of the side-on 'blade' design motif used so effectively on all latterday Vauxhalls.

And it now has the added attraction of a 2.0-litre CDTi BiTurbo option to make it the most powerful GTC apart from the excellent VXR.

Priced at £23,925 – £995 more than the previous fastest diesel, the GTC 2.0 CDTi 165PS (163bhp) model – this brings 195PS (193bhp) and a healthy dollop of extra low-down pulling power through harnessing an additional smaller turbocharger to get moving. As the revs mount, both turbochargers work together.

Less than eight seconds is needed to hit 60mph, yet the BiTurbo can be sensible, with start/stop fitted as standard, plus an official combined fuel consumption of 53.3mpg and CO_2 emissions of 139/km attracting road tax of £120 a year – good for a performance machine.

It also looks the part, with 18-inch alloys, lower ride-height, new bodykit and Track interior trim, including a flat-bottomed sports-style leather steering wheel.

IN STYLE: The latest incarnation of the popular Astra sees a few new options added to the line-up

DON'T LIKE

... how mainstream brands like Vauxhall have to work so hard to beat the badge snobbery that affects so many car-buyers in this country

NOT SURE

... then that many would-be buyers will check out this latest Astra and recognise its strengths rather than shop around for a status badge

REALLY LIKE

... the styling of the Astra, with the new treatment of the five-door and estate models adding sharpness and desirability to a good car

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Fuel economy figures for the Juke 1.6 TEKNA 5 DOOR mpg (L/100km). Urban - 36.7 (7.7), Extra Urban - 55.4 (5.1), Combined - 47.1 (6.0), CO_2 emissions 139 g/km. Qashqai 1.6 VISIA 5 DOOR Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban - 54.3 (5.2), Combined - 45.6 (6.2), CO_2 emissions 144 g/km.

[illegible]

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*The service offer is only applicable to Volvo XC90, XC60, S60, V60 vehicles ordered in the customer's name on or after the 1st April 2012 up to and including 30th September 2012. The retail service is for 3 years or 54,000 miles (whichever occurs first) and includes 3 services at a one-off cost to the customer of £300 inc VAT (£250.00 +VAT). The services must be carried out at a Volvo Authorised Repairer by Volvo Approved Technicians. Where the work is carried out outside the UK, the customer must pay for work and retain receipts for reimbursement by VCUK. The retail offer is only available for purchase at any time up to 1 month after registration, as long as the vehicle meets the appropriate conditions. Subject to additional terms and conditions, and excludes fleet operators and Business users. Retail customers only. See Volvocars.co.uk for full terms and conditions.

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'For sail' sign on classy XC60

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VOLVO'S smart Ocean Race series of special editions celebrates the Swedish marque's long-term premium association with sailing.

And what a shrewd move it was, judging by the number of Volvos you see around 'yottie' locations – a nice, reliable market niche to have.

The jewel in the crown is the Volvo Ocean Race itself – formerly the Whitbread Round The World Race, held every three years.

The 11th race was won last month by the French skipper Franck Cammas after almost nine months and 39,270 nautical miles, during which the fleet faced towering waves and 60-knot winds.

Life on board in the sopping-wet, stripped-out cabins of these yachts will have been a far cry, though, from the luxury of our XC60 Ocean Race test car.

The XC60 is Volvo's premium compact SUV, a rival to the likes of the Audi Q5, Land Rover Freelander, junior BMW X models and perhaps even the more mainstream VW Tiguan.

It can't match the Freelander's off-road prowess, but you can be confident that the all-wheel-drive XC60 version can conquer most mud and muck and is the more stylish choice.

You can also buy it in Volvo's highly successful tax-beating ultra-eco DRIVe format with front-wheel drive, so Volvo would appear to have all customer bases covered, except that the Ocean Race version comes only in all-wheel-drive.

You do get some choice here, though; silver or a fetching metallic sea blue and Volvo's tried and trusted 2.4-litre five-cylinder diesel engine with 163PS (161bhp) or 215PS (213bhp) output plus fuel- and emissions-saving start/stop.

Ours was the performance-orientated 215PS unit with a precise six-speed manual gearbox, which matches the XC60's impressive car-like handling; this may be a taller car, but it does not have a sailor's gait on the corners.

VOLVO XC60 D5: PRICE £33,500

CRUISER: Volvo's stylish XC60 SUV

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£135
Best rival:	Audi Q5

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Ride quality is excellent, too, while long-distance cruising ability is top class, with decent economy – the official combined mpg figure is 50.4.

You quickly forget that you are piloting an SUV – it feels more like a large family hatch.

But not any old hatchback, because Volvo has loaded a lot of kit on to the Ocean Race for prices starting at a reasonable £31,350, though our test car is £33,500.

On the outside, you get smart and chunky six-spoke two-tone alloys unique to this edition, plus unobtrusive alloy roof rails and Ocean Race badges. The nautical theme is stepped up inside, most notably by an Ocean Race-flavour version of Volvo's now trademark 'flying' centre console, which has storage space behind.

At first, I thought the console's alloy finish was badly scratched, before realising that it had been etched with lines to resemble a nautical navigation chart.

Rather more obviously, the plush leather front seats feature embossed Volvo Ocean Race logos on the back-rests, but you'll be more interested to hear that they come with an invisible hallmark – Volvo comfort.

There are also bespoke mats with durable aluminium corners inspired by the lashing points of a sail and alloy Ocean Race kick-strips on the door sills.

The general effect is classy with premium sound system, quality alloy trimming, decent stowage front and back, with a chunky front-arm-rest housing a USB socket and room to stash an MP3-player, phone and much more.

The rear middle seat folds forward to become a table and also allow access to a ski hatch into the rear load space – all the seats fold flat to create a cavernous load space. In fact, the XC60 merits the trendy label 'crossover' more than some that claim to have been born with it.

First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

MX-5 the most reliable by far

FOR years the Mazda MX-5 has been the UK's most affordable sports car, but it now has another recognised attraction – reliability.

A WhatCar? survey showed that 96 per cent of MX-5s built after 2005 are fault-free, making it Britain's most bulletproof motor, with a reliability index figure of eight – the lower the better – while the UK car model average was 100.

Coming soon – F-Type Jag

WHETHER it is judged the 'new E-Type' or not, excitement is mounting ahead of all-new Jaguar F-Type's public debut at the Parish Motor Show on Thursday, September 27.

Seen only in the disguised form pictured here, the Jag roadster will surely become the most desirable car of the moment when it arrives, adding to the powerful revival by the British sporting marque.

Floating roof Yaris specials

TOYOTA has launched smart new value-for-money Edition and Trend versions of its Yaris supermini, with both featuring blacked-out side pillars for a full 'floating roof' effect.

Priced from £11,695 for the Edition, this version gains smoked alloys, front fog lamps, rear privacy glass, rev counter and body-coloured mirrors and handles, on top of normal T2 trim.

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On the road price	£9,395	Duration of agreement	37 months
Optional final payment of	£3,612.50	Annual fixed interest rate	3.55%
Amount of credit	£7,137.75	APR	6.9%

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Deposit Contribution*	£1,100	Excess mileage charge per mile (+VAT)	14.9p
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Optional final payment of	£5,100	Annual fixed interest rate	3.55%
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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km

MOTORING

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New course set for Mercedes A-Class

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ will have taken a quite different direction with its third-generation A-Class, pictured left, when it arrives later this year.

While its predecessors followed a high-profile mini-MPV format, the newcomer will be a rakish, almost coupé-style, hatchback using the brand's latest sharp-edged design language.

Why the change? Well, the BMW 1 Series and Audi A3 had been carving up this end of the market and closing Mercedes out, and the small but premium sector is not only increasingly profitable as drivers downsize their car choice but also the entry point for future buyers of bigger cars from the brand that wins their custom first.

It's also fair to say that Merc made life hard for itself by creating the B-Class, which also fulfils the mini-MPV function, though a tad larger than the previous A-Class contenders.

Having made the big decision to switch tactics with the latest A-Class, then, the car also sets out to catch buyers' eyes, not hard when Audi's obsession with design evolution rather than revolution makes the next A3 look suspiciously like its predecessors.

And if we're talking about looks, then the BMW 1 Series MkII is hardly an advance on the first-generation car; the droopy side-on view may be gone, but the bluff front end is hardly easy on the eye, even if the car is a joy to drive.

In contrast, the new A-Class really does look sharp and M-B seems determined to give it even more of an edge with tempting deals announced, just as order books open ahead of December delivery dates.

With Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) schemes making up the bulk of finance on new cars, the A-Class will be available from just £249 a month, with similar deals for business users.

This works out at a 36-month fixed-term finance offer, based on a £3,279.50 deposit and 4.9 per cent APR.

The opposition will be worried because even while M-B waits for its most affordable model to arrive, the marque has just posted a record 4.6 per cent UK market share for July and a year-to-date rise of 13.7 per cent.

The July figures also showed the executive level C-Class saloon, left, coupé and estate line-up leap into the UK top-10 sellers list – a feat more often achieved by its arch-rival, the BMW 3 Series.

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OLYMPICS

Staff role a lot less stressful for Beijing gold medal cycling star

By Greg Miles
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WATCHING the Olympics for the first time after retiring was always going to be a strange experience for gold medallist Jamie Staff.

And even more so when, like hin, you're a coach for an opposing nation.

The 39-year-old from Ashford watched on as his former team mates Sir Chris Hoy and Jason Kenny again picked up gold for Team GB, as they did with him in the men's team pursuit in Beijing four years ago.

However, the man who retired in 2010 because of back problems had no time to reminisce but instead focused on getting his USA team, for whom he is the director of sprint, ready to compete.

He admits it was much more stress free compared to his experience as an athlete, but also a frustrating one.

"It's normal for any athlete that has retired, you think you can still do it," he said. "It is frustrating getting old, and since retiring I find it hard to find the time to exercise.

"You don't have that stress, that pressure to perform, so to speak though."

Alongside his coaching duties, the former World BMX Champion managed to commentate with Team GB cycling star Mark Cavendish and presenter Jake Humphrey on the BBC, as well as meeting up with old friends.

"GB cycling is in my heart, I was cheering on all the British athletes," he said. "It's been absolutely fantastic to see the success here.

"I bumped into Chris (Hoy) here and there but they are so busy and focused you only get to chat. It's nice to see the British staff, they are the ones you see about at the competitions.

"It's always nice to catch up in a causal manner with Team GB. They have been very supportive of me and what I'm trying to do.

"The TV stuff is really fun being trackside with Cavendish and Jake Humphrey. The atmosphere was absolutely amazing. I was taking my ear pieces off and putting my fingers in my ears because it was so noisy."

Staff joined the USA set up shortly after his retirement, working near his home in California, which ironically is near an army base called Camp Pendleton. He insists there were no great expectations from these games, and instead he plans to deliver in Rio in four years time. However, his team did win two silvers – in the women's sprint with Sarah Hammer who lost out to Brit Laura Trott, and with the women's team pursuit.

While he was well aware of Team GB's success inside the velodrome he didn't get to see much of the action around the Olympic park, partly because of his dislike of large crowds.

"I don't like hanging around 100,000 people," he said. "I live close to Disney World back home and they call it the happiest place in the world, but I hate it.

"I've been picking the paper in the morning wondering what's happened. You don't get to see much, if you're at home you are more informed than anyone else here."

Although his head is well and truly across the pond his heart is firmly in Kent where his family still live.

"I have been out there for a good chunk of my life but I miss Kent," he said. "I miss my mum and my dad and sister, it's hard, but with modern technology you can Skype and do all that sort of stuff."

One thing the natives in the States do get to see is the medal he won in Beijing, but only on rare occasions.

He said: "I have done a couple of school visits in the States and for me that's one of the best things about the medal, trying to pass on the message that anyone can achieve.

"It's not for the wealthy, anyone can achieve this and I'm hoping people will have seen that on the TV these last three weeks with the boxing to judo or cycling. It's just about belief."

Picture:: MARCH ASPLAND

GOLD: Team GB men's pursuit team in action in the velodrome in London, where Jamie Staff was working with the USA cycling team

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

FRUSTRATION: Retired Jamie Staff had to watch as a coach while former team mates raced

Picture: ADY KERRY

IN DEMAND: Azhar Mahmood is off to Sri Lanka

CRICKET

Twenty20 shake-up needed, says Kent chief Clifford as Mahmood jets off to Sri Lankan Premier League

JAMIE Clifford believes big changes need to be made to the country's Twenty20 competition in order to catch up with the likes of the Indian Premier League in the wake of Azhar Mahmood's departure from the county.

It was confirmed this week that Kent favourite Mahmood has been released to allow him to play in the Sri Lanka Premier League for the next two weeks for Wayamba United.

And while he will return to Canterbury for the final weeks of the season, there is no guarantee he'll be back next year despite the county having first option on the man from Pakistan should he decide to play T20 in England next year.

"We have got a good relationship with Azhar and wanted to allow him to do it with our blessing," said Clifford.

"He will come back to us at the end of the season, and we will see where he goes next year. We have an option to secure him for the Twenty20.

"If he decides to come and play back in England we have an option of him playing for us before he plays elsewhere.

"That's a long way off and the priority at this stage was to release him for the Sri Lanka Premier League."

Clifford feels the English T20 game has a lot to do to catch up with the one-day formats abroad where it is becoming ever popular, and attractive to the world's best.

"There is an on-going debate about the best way to attract higher-profile players to the game," he said.

"I am sure in time we will see a different format, but at the moment it is too early to say what that would look like."

He felt the English T20 campaign would benefit from stretching out across the whole season, or being cut shorter.

"The IPL has stolen a march on everybody else, it's now the fifth biggest sporting event in financial terms, which is some going," he said.

"We could have a short, sharp competition that has a high profile to attract players from around the world," he said.

"We could have a competition where the T20 is spread throughout the season. We would get decent gates at every fixture we put on.

"Our county championship is the best four-day game in the world at the moment, it wasn't so long ago that the Australians were looking at us to see what they could do better."

Meanwhile Kent get back to their CB40 campaign this weekend when they travel to Northamptonshire on Sunday.

They play their penultimate game in the competition at Canterbury against Yorkshire on Wednesday knowing they need to win to keep their hopes of a place in the semi-finals alive as they are currently second in Group C.

Their final game in the competition is against Sussex.

CRICKET

Relaxed batsman Billings ties down his one-day spot

By Greg Miles
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KENT youngster Sam Billings has pinpointed a new-found relaxation as the reason for his stay in Jimmy Adams' plans.

The 21-year-old has been a mainstay in the one-day sides this summer, having emerged with the county's promising batch of youngsters last season.

He has had to prove himself worthy of a place with the bat while Geraint Jones continues his dominance in Billings' preferred position as wicketkeeper.

And he did just that last weekend in the CB40 win over Derbyshire, with an astonishing 143 to enter the record books with the highest individual score in a one-day game by a Kent player at Canterbury.

He joins considerable company on the list of high scoares at different grounds, which is topped by Aussie Andrew Symonds who hit 146 against Lancashire in Tunbridge Wells in 2004, while in second is West Indian Carl Hooper who made 145 in Leicestershire in 1996, and in third is former Kent captain Chris Tavare who smashed his 143 at Taunton against Somerset in 1985.

"It's more about staying relaxed and backing your own ability," he said. "The guys have helped me massively with that. It's more about the mind-set really. It's really important to keep talking with the other guys.

"I had a long chat with Azhar Mahmood this week and he said he's still learning about his game everyday.

Picture: ADY KERRY

RECORD: Sam Billings entered the Kent record books with his 143 against Derbyshire last weekend

"We have got a lot of talented youngsters and top class older guys which is perfect for us younger players to help us learn. We are all feeding off of each other, it's a really good blend, and it's reflected in the performances."

He admits it has been a difficult season with the weather hampering his inclusion in first-team affairs: "It's very hard to get your rhythm as a batter, you can have a week where you're feeling really good then you won't play for a couple more weeks because of the rain. There hasn't been a conscious effort to concentrate on my batting but that's what has got my into the side – I have just gone about my business quietly."

ATHLETICS

Gemili to go head-to-head with Olympics stars in 200m

TEENAGE Olympian Adam Gemili has announced he will compete in the 200m in the Diamond League on the Bank Holiday weekend in Birmingham.

The 18-year-old reached the semi-finals of the 100m with only four hundredths of a second separating the Dartford man from a place in the Olympic final, finishing behind Tyson Gay and eventual silver medallist Yohan Blake in his race.

It's an amazing rise to prominence for the runner who only took up the sport full time in January, and was this time last year playing non-league football for Thurrock.

The 100m World Junior Champion will be taking part in his first Diamond League event at the Aviva Birmingham Grand Prix on Sunday 26 August, and there will be a few familiar faces in the starting lineup including Olympic finalists Ryan Bailey, Churandy Martina and Wallace Spearmon as well as relay teammate Christian Malcolm who reached the semi-finals of the 200m in London.

"The Aviva Birmingham Grand Prix will give me another opportunity to race against some of the guys that I went up against in the Olympic Games, and this is something I am relishing," he said.

"There are going to be some 200m specialists out on the track, but I am keen to show that I can make that transition from the 100m and compete against the best.

"Make no mistake, it will be a fiercely contested race, but I'm more than capable of rising to the occasion and showing a glimpse of what is to come from me in the next few years."

Picture: TOM JENKINS/NOPP

RISE: Gemili takes on world's best

FOOTBALL

Hessenthaler praised for helping new boss Allen

GILLINGHAM boss Martin Allen has praised former manager Andy Hessenthaler for his help in recruiting players for the new campaign.

Hessenthaler became director of football at Priestfield after stepping down as manager, and as part of his role has helped new manager Allen build his side.

He has so far brought in six players, goalkeepers Stuart Nelson and Tommy Forecast, defender Tom Flanagan, midfielder Charlie Allen, and strikers Ben Strevens and Deon Burton.

Allen said: "Andy Hessenthaler has done a really good job over the last couple of years with the team.

"Andy has been very helpful and supportive of me, recruiting players and helping players settle in. Like an assistant manager almost.

Allen added: "The aim is to go up, let's be honest. The chairman is very ambitious."

■ Meanwhile the Gills are set for a cash windfall from Chelsea following Ryan Bertrand's debut for England on Wednesday night against Italy. The 21-year-old came through the ranks at Priestfield before moving on to Stamford Bridge when he was 16 in the summer of 2005 in a deal that now nets the club £200,000 following his international debut.

The club is also set for a 15 per cent stake in the sale of former winger Matt Jarvis who is expected to leave current club Wolves soon.

Picture: ADY KERRY

PRAISE: Hess helping players settle

MOTORSPORT

AMBITION: Camier wants more from his bike

Learning Spanish and world title on Ashford superbike rider's list

LEON Camier admits he still has a point to prove in the World Superbike Championships.

The Ashford racer is in his third season on the world circuit after becoming the youngest-ever winner of the British Superbike Championship in 2009.

But he has struggled for results this term in what is his first season with new team – FIXI Crescent Suzuki.

He is currently 16th in the standings, some way behind his seventh place finish last season with four races left, including the next weekend's round which for the first time takes place in Moscow.

"I have been wanting and expecting a lot more," he said. "There have been a few things this year they know have not been right, it's not been as strong as we have wanted.

"I feel like I have been riding really well and battling for 10th but I feel like I should be winning the race.

"If we can win at British championship level there's no reason we cannot win at world level, it is about having the right team and right bike. If it is not quite right you are half a second off the pace and you are in 15th. Everything has to be perfect.

"I want to be a world champion and I have got to do what I have got to do to do it. I still feel like I have got a point to prove, ideally I would like to be successful in world superbikes."

The 25-year-old has just moved into a new home in the tax haven of Andorra, nestled in the Pyrenees between Spain and France, and while winning the world title is his biggest aim he is also hoping to start learning Spanish.

"I can speak absolutely nothing, but I have got to learn. I'm going to make myself learn this year," he said.

"I know some of the basics, but there is no way I could have a conversation with anyone, I suppose I could order food and things, but I need to have lessons."

He says the lifestyle in the country is perfect for training, and on the social side as lots of other athletes, and superbike stars are near neighbours.

"There are a lot of riding trails, there is so much stuff to do, and also in winter. It's a good place to be for training, and it's a relaxing way of life."

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